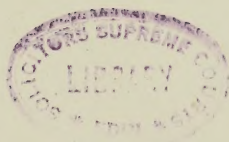
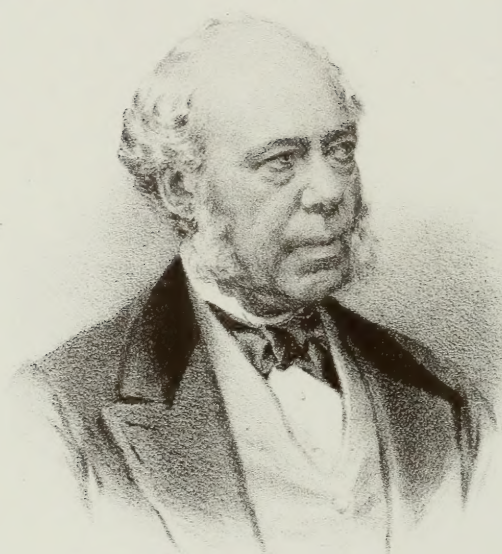


Q. O.

HISTORY OF PAISLEY.

VOL. II.





Robert Brown



PA
890

P1

B7

1886

V. 2

SR4

THE
HISTORY OF PAISLEY,

FROM THE ROMAN PERIOD DOWN TO 1884.

BY

ROBERT BROWN, F. S. A., Scot.,

UNDERWOOD PARK, PAISLEY.

AUTHOR OF

"THE HISTORY OF THE PAISLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND ACADEMY
AND OF THE OTHER TOWN'S SCHOOLS," ETC., ETC.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME II.

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS.

PAISLEY:

J. & J. COOK, PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS,

"GAZETTE" BUILDINGS, 94 HIGH STREET.

MDCCCLXXXVI.

C O N T E N T S

OF VOLUME II.

CHAPTER XV.

	Pages
PAISLEY FROM 1750 TILL 1800,	9-97

CHAPTER XVI.

PAISLEY FROM 1800 TILL 1825,	98-217
------------------------------------	--------

CHAPTER XVII.

PAISLEY FROM 1825 TILL 1850,	218-314
------------------------------------	---------

CHAPTER XVIII.

PAISLEY FROM 1850 TILL 1884,	315-495
------------------------------------	---------

INDEX,	496-507
--------------	---------

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS


IN VOLUME II.

1. Portrait of the Author,	<i>Frontispiece.</i>
2. Old Tollbooth and Cross Steeple,	Page 10
3. Plan of the river Cart, by Robert Whitworth, in 1786,	50
4. Illustrated Map of Paisley, by W. Semple, in 1781,	90
5. County Buildings, Paisley,	120
6. Radical Pike,.....	191
7. Radical Cleg,.....	192
8. Architectural elevation of the west façade of the Abbey, ..	232
9. Martyrs' Monument,.....	288
10. Halberd of Town Officers,	301
11. The John Neilson Educational Institution,	328
12. Armorial Bearings of Hammermen's Society,	381
13. Paisley Free Library and Museum,	384
14. George A. Clark Town Hall,	392
15. Paisley Penny,	460
16. Farthing of Jervis Coats & Son,.....	460
17. Farthing of Peter Taylor, tobacconist, ...	461
18. The Common Seal of the Burgh of Paisley,	461
19. Blackhall Castle,	492
20. <i>Fac-simile</i> of the Signatures of the Bailies of Paisley, from 1594 till 1811, and of the Provosts from 1812 till 1884,	494
21. Map of Paisley in 1884,	495

HISTORY OF PAISLEY.

CHAPTER XV.

1750 TILL 1800.

 IN the latter half of the eighteenth century, the period embraced in this chapter, the Town of Paisley made more rapid and striking progress than in any previous period of its history. This statement applies not only to the increase of population and erection of dwelling-houses, and places of worship, and other public buildings, but also to the starting and rapid extension of new industries, and the enlargement of those that had been commenced in earlier periods. This will appear, while we proceed with our record of events, as they occurred, and as we give an account of the progress of Paisley as a manufacturing town.

Of the properties sold by the Town Council, one was the meeting-house in Moss Row, already frequently referred to. It was bought by Thomas Kerr, postmaster, for £102 stg., under a burden of 2s. of annual feu-duty; and the Council reserved a piece of ground at the south end of the building, extending to about nine feet in breadth, "for a road or passage, or any other use they shall think proper" (*Council Records*, 25th January, 1751). On 31st March, 1791, the Council agreed to sell the Bark Mill and ground attached thereto, at the Saucel Bridge, belonging to the community. On 6th September, 1792, they sold to "John Gibb, vintner, in Paisley, for £200, Woodneuk and Sergeants Acre," adjoining the lands of Ferguslie. On 3rd September, 1794, they authorised the Magistrates to offer the town's old houses at West Steeple to Robert Speir, merchant, at £300.

A purchase effected by the Council was the superiority of the lands of Carriagehill, for £63 11s. 8d. stg., from the Earl of Dundonald. On 2nd October, 1779, they agreed to purchase from William Stewart, merchant, his houses near the West Steeple, for £220 stg. And on 22nd August, 1781, they bought from "John Snodgrass, Sheriff-Clerk, and James Renfrew, smith, sometime in Chappell of Blackhall, now in Mains of Blackstone," for £300, the tenement in Moss Row, adjoining the Tollbooth.

We have already frequently referred to the stringent measures which the Magistrates and Council adopted for checking Sunday

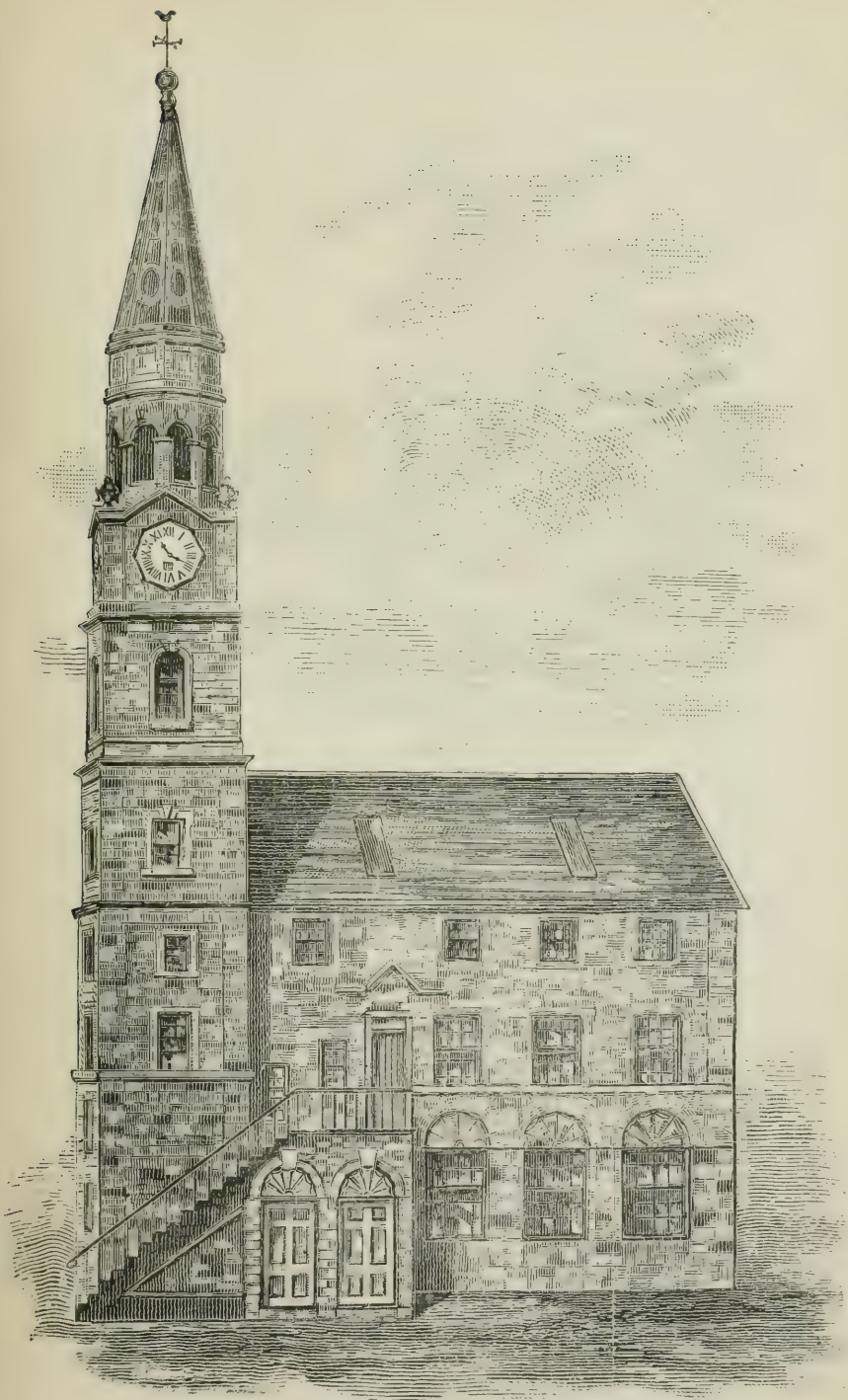
desecration. It appears that, notwithstanding all their efforts, they had not succeeded by their enactments in enforcing the due observance of the Sabbath. On 17th April, 1752, the Council "ordain the visitors or privy censures to be appointed for taking notice of those who vague or stroll on the streets or in the fields on the Sabbath day as formerly was appointed." So far as we have been able to discover, this is the last time the Council interfered in matters of this kind.

On 19th February, 1753, John Lang was elected "one of the town officers," and also to be "jailer of the Tollbooth jointly with the other officers"; and the Magistrates were requested "to take his oath of fidelity," and to receive caution from him. At this meeting, they also "elected William Gordon to be town drummer and for ringing the town bell, and for which he is to have £5 stg. yearly of salary," besides "one fourth share of money that arises from proclamations made by tuck of drum."

The condition of the Tollbooth had been engaging the attention of the Council, and they found it to be very defective in several ways. It was their opinion that it had "become insufficient for detaining prisoners, and has been for some time past, which is both a loss to the town, and by the escape of prisoners, through the insufficiency of the prison, the community run a very great risk." In these circumstances, the Council resolved that the Tollbooth should be taken down, and the Magistrates were authorised "to get a plan made out, and to get proper materials purchased for the building, and to agree with tradesmen for the building"¹ (*Council Records*, 23rd January, 1756). At a meeting of Council, held on the 7th May following, "several plans were produced for the new Tollbooth, and they preferred the one made out by Bailie Birkmyre." On 9th July thereafter, they had under their consideration the condition of the steeple adjoining the Tollbooth, and agreed that it should also be rebuilt, "both on account of the danger of falling when the Tollbooth walls are taken down, and also that they will be built jointly with more convenience and usefulness." At this meeting, they also agreed "that there be piazzas made under the fore part of the Tollbooth."² At a meeting of Council held on 15th July following, we learn that as they had several plans for the proposed new Tollbooth and steeple, they agreed to submit them to Mr. Peters, the Deacon Convener, Glasgow, for his advice as to the best, and that he had "approved of one drawn by John Whyte, one of the Council, as the best and fittest." The Council, on 2nd August following, adopted this recommendation, but not unanimously, as three of the members of Council, one of whom was Bailie Birkmyre, objected, for various reasons. On 11th July, 1757, the Council, "considering it will be

¹ It is unfortunate that no old plan or view of any kind of this old Tollbooth has been preserved.

² W. Semple, in his history of 1782 (p. 309), states that the front of the Clerk's "chamber is adorned with a piazza supported with two square rustic arched stone pillars."



CROSS STEEPLE AND TOLLBOOTH, ERECTED 1757.

more ornamental to finish the spire of the new steeple at the Cross with stone, agreed that such should be, and appointed a committee to agree with masons for building and finishing the said spire." By this decision, it would appear that they had contemplated the using of some other material than stone, but, if such was the case, there is no indication given of what it was to be. In the completion of the spire, it is worthy of being noticed that John Mair, a young mason, aged sixteen years, had just fixed the cock which formed the vane, and was descending, when he fell from a considerable height, and would have been killed on the street below, but that he caught a projecting stone, to which he hung till feather beds were laid below him, and on these he fell uninjured; a man on the street also partially breaking the fall with his hands. On reaching the ground, he is said to have uttered the exclamation, "By this fall, I rise." He did not return to the mason trade, but went into the muslin business in Glasgow, and acquired considerable wealth. He afterwards established a large mercantile business in London; and, in 1793, bought the estate of Plantation, near Govan. He laid out upwards of £30,000 in improvements and alterations on the dwelling-house and the estate.¹ He obtained possession of the stone that saved his life, and had it fixed near his arbour, in Plantation estate, where he was in the habit of sitting. In his prosperity he did not forget the man who had broken his fall with his hands; for, having ascertained that he was in indigent circumstances, he sought him out, and pensioned him for life. In memory of his escape, Mr. Mair had emblazoned on his carriage the figure of a swan, with the motto, "I rise by a fall." The figure of the swan was suggested by his mother's maiden name, which was Swan; and the motto represented improvement of circumstances, which his fall had brought about. He died in 1824, and was interred in Govan churchyard. Mr. M'Lean, who purchased the lands of Plantation, preserved Mr. Mair's two relics. The seat was taken down, and re-erected in the adjoining grounds of Haughhead; and the stone was offered to Mr. Mair's grandson in London, who removed it to that city in 1870.

We give an elevation drawing of the spire at the Cross, and the Tollbooth or Jail, adjoining.²

While the spire, 128 feet in height, forming the south angle of

¹ It is reported of him that he was at one time reduced, by the wreck of a vessel which had not been insured, to the necessity of requesting indulgence for some time from his creditors. This, from the high character which he bore as a commercial man, was at once freely granted. Some time afterwards, he invited his creditors to his house, and, on sitting down to table, each found under his plate the principal and interest owing to him.—*Glasgow, Ancient and Modern*, p. 1175.

² As taken from a drawing by Mr. Hugh Vallance, when a young man, before the old Tollbooth was taken down in 1821. We are indebted to Miss Helen Macfarlane, formerly of Canal Bank, Paisley, and at present residing in Edinburgh, the possessor of this interesting sketch, for allowing us to take a copy of it; as hers, we believe, is the only drawing preserved of this former landmark of the town.

High Street and west angle of Moss Street, was a graceful structure, the buildings of the Tollbooth or Jail, adjoining it on the north side, did not exhibit any striking architectural feature. The north door, in the basement storey, led to what was at first the Guard-house, and afterwards the Police Office, Town Clerk's Office, and Council Chambers. The south door, on the same flat, besides being the entrance to the ground floor of the room within the steeple, which was called the "howf," where ale and porter were sold, and to the apartment behind, facing High Street, called the jailer's room, where ale and porter were likewise occasionally sold, also communicated by an inside stair with the rooms in the third floor, where debtors were incarcerated, and also with the attic, where females were imprisoned. The rooms or cells in the second and third floors, within the steeple, and also the cells above the jailer's room, were well secured stone rooms, in which criminals were confined. The fourth, or highest room in the steeple, was set apart for the bell-ringer. The north door, at the head of the outside stone stair, formed the entrance to the County Sheriff Court Rooms, in which the Magistrates also frequently held their courts. The south door on that stair-head formed another entrance to the Tollbooth.

The space at the head of this stair was of some size, and was used for a variety of public purposes. It was here that the Jugs, Stocks, and Pillory, were placed; and culprits sentenced to undergo punishments by any of these means were in this conspicuous position exposed to the gaze, and sometimes to the fury, of the public assembled on the adjoining street. There also public proclamations were made, and, when the King's birthday was celebrated, it was on the platform of this stair-head that the Magistrates and others stood while they drank His Majesty's health, afterwards pitching the empty glasses among the crowd assembled at the market cross. The population of the town at that time was about 5000.

Shortly after the lands belonging to the Monastery of Paisley had been formed into a Regality, in 1451, by King James II., who granted the privilege of arresting and punishing malefactors, Abbot Thomas Tervas erected a court hall on this site of the Tollbooth, which was in 1490, as already stated, conveyed to the Bailies and Town Council by Abbot George Schaw, who described it in the charter as the *Prætorium*.

John Spar, and not the Town Treasurer, disbursed the money connected with the erection of the Tollbooth and steeple. On 30th January, 1761, his accounts were examined, and it was found that the whole expenses amounted to £914 4s. 6d. stg. On the 2nd of the following month, the Council elected John Campbell, merchant in Paisley, to be jailer of the Tollbooth. He did not, however, fill this situation for any length of time, as the Council, on 26th July, 1763, "thought proper to remove John Campbell from his office on account of his misconduct." At the same meeting,

they resolved to return to the old practice of giving the charge of the Tollbooth to one of the town's officers. This was not, however, carried out, as on the 21st October following they appointed John Lang, late weaver, to be jailer. Besides the jailer's fees, he was "to have £4 stg. per annum of salary, and £1 stg. in full for allowance of candle and sweeping vents." On 11th February, 1771, the Council fixed the following dues to be paid to the jailer ;—

1st. Every burgess incarcerated shall, during his confinement, pay for jailer's fee for each night at the rate of	...	...	...	...	...	£0	0	2
2nd. Every person not a burgess,	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	4
3rd. Every person imprisoned, by virtue of an act of warding, shall pay to the jailer, exclusive of the dues in first article, when the sum is 10s. stg. or below,	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	3
4th. Do., when 10s. and above, but not exceeding 20s.,	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	6
5th. Do., 20s. and above, but not exceeding 30s.,	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	9
6th. Do., 30s. and above, but not exceeding 40s.,	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	0
7th. Do., 40s. and above, to pay	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	2
N.B.—In the four last articles, the keeper of the records shall be entitled, from articles 3rd and 4th, one half-penny ; from articles 5th and 6th, one penny ; and from article 7th, twopence.								
And every person incarcerated, by virtue of a written warrant from a Magistrate, a Justice of Peace, or Sheriff, shall pay to jailer and keeper of the records,	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	2
But if the Procurator-Fiscal be concerned in such warrants, to pay nothing.								
Every person incarcerated in virtue of the caption or admiral warrant, exclusive of the dues first and second article, to jailer and Keeper of the Records,	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	2
The jailer, on signing an attestation of a commitment, shall receive	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	6
And the Keeper of the Records, on the delivery up of diligence to persons, neglecting to require the same within eight days after the liberation, shall for every act of warding receive,	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	6
And every caption or admiral warrant,	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	0
For every person imprisoned on a personal conveyance shall pay the jailer, exclusive of first article,	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	1

On 25th June, 1774, the Magistrates reported to the Council "that they had agreed with William Kelly, clockmaker in Paisley, to keep the clocks in the Cross Steeple, High Church Steeple, West Steeple, and movement in the Middle Church for a year, and to receive £5 stg. therefor." The Council, on 15th June, 1793, appointed William Hart, jailer, and found caution for his fidelity.

On 8th September, 1797, they fixed the following rules to be observed in the prison :—

- 1st. The jailer to attend from nine to ten o'clock in the morning, from one to two mid-day, and from eight to nine at night, for the purpose of serving the prisoners with their victuals, and at no other time for victuals.
- 2nd. The jailer to shut up the prisoners in their rooms at nine o'clock at night, by locking and bolting each of the inner doors and hanging catbands thereon ; also, locking and bolting the outer doors and hanging catbands on them, with a lock on the outer catband.
- 3rd. The stairs and house-room, although they are entries to the jail, yet they are not to be considered as any part of, the prison.

In the morning of 17th November, 1785, the prison was broken open, and John Barbour, jun., merchant in Kilbarchan, and John White, Paisley, both confined for debt, made their escape. John Barbour was a young man of twenty-two years of age, and John White was about the same age. The Magistrates and Council offered a reward of £25 to anyone who would apprehend them. Three years afterwards, the prison was again broken open. On the night between Sunday the 12th and Monday the 13th October, 1788, Christian Cameron effected her escape by making a hole through the roof of the prison. The upper flat of attics was reserved for the imprisonment of women. She was incarcerated on a charge of breaking into the house of William Ewing, Mitchelton, and stealing therefrom a quantity of wearing apparel. The Magistrates intimated by advertisement in the newspapers that whoever apprehended her would be handsomely rewarded.

Early in the morning of 9th September, 1787, three prisoners escaped from the Tollbooth. One of them was named Roderick MacCuillin, an Irishman, twenty years of age, and was in confinement preparatory to being tried before the next Circuit Court at Glasgow for a forgery on the Paisley Banking Company. One of the other prisoners was John Taylor, weaver in Paisley, also twenty years of age, who was charged with housebreaking and theft. James Taylor, who escaped at the same time, surrendered himself. A reward of one hundred guineas was offered by the Paisley Banking Company to anyone who would apprehend MacCuillin. A reward of £10 10s. was offered by the Procurator-Fiscal for the apprehension of Taylor. On the 12th of that month, MacCuillin was apprehended at Wraes, in the parish of Houston, by two Messengers-at-Arms, who were assisted by a party of the Royal Paisley Volunteers, and committed to Paisley prison. MacCuillin, who was tried at Edinburgh and found guilty, was to have been executed on the 6th December in that year, but he succeeded in destroying himself in prison. On the previous night he made an attempt to escape, and had very nearly succeeded, when he was

discovered by the under-jailer, and secured after a severe struggle, in which the jailer was dangerously wounded.

A post between London and Edinburgh was first established in 1635, and three days were allowed for the journey.¹ The postage charge for a letter was eightpence. In 1654, the revenues of the Post Office for England, Scotland, and Ireland were farmed, and the sum received was £10,000 per annum. The revenue of the Post Office in Scotland at the Union was £1194; in 1730, £5399; in 1760, £11,942; in 1776, £31,108; and in 1793, £40,000. In 1726, the Post Office revenue at Paisley amounted to £28 13s.; and in 1769, to £223 3s. 8d., thus showing in a most satisfactory way the great increase of business in the town in the course of forty-three years.

The Post Office was in Moss Row, at present No. 43 Moss Street, and in 1751 the Post-Master's name was Thomas Kerr; and for three generations afterwards descendants of that name held the situation.

The first proprietor of the lands of Ferguslie was John Hamilton, a descendant of the Hamiltons of Orbiston, who obtained a grant of them from John Hamilton, Abbot of Paisley, in 1554; and by an heiress of the family they came to John Wallace, a younger son of William Wallace of Elderslie, whose successor was John Hamilton of Barr. These lands were afterwards acquired by William Cochran, son of Col. Hugh Cochran, brother-german of William Earl of Dundonald (*Shire of Renfrew described by George Crawford p. 63*). As already stated, this estate was bought by the Town Council on 6th July, 1748. Tradition has it that there was a castle at Ferguslie, but there is now no trace of such a building. In 1864, a stone was found at the mansion-house with the initials on it of J. W. and M. H., and it was alleged that Ferguslie Castle was erected by John Wallace and Margaret Hamilton in 1634, and that this stone was the keystone of the arch to the main door in the fortalice. If this castle had been erected so recently as 1634, some trace of it would, as in the case of other substantial buildings of this kind, have been found at the present day. This stone with initial letters on it may, very likely, have been used in connection with some unimportant additional building, but that it belonged to any castle is very improbable. As building operations were proceeding so rapidly and extensively at this time, many of the stones were taken out of the lands of Ferguslie without permission. On 29th January, 1751, however, the Council interfered, prohibiting burgesses and others from taking stones from "the town's craigs or quarries" in these lands without permission from the Bailies, under the penalty of one hundred pounds Scots. There appears to have been a large number of trees growing on this estate, but these were sold by

¹ Post is believed to be derived from the Latin word *Positus*, a station.

the Council at different periods. On 2nd December, 1770, they "authorised the Magistrates to sell some of the timber growing on the lands of Ferguslie." On 29th November, 1776, they "agreed to roup and sell sundry trees on the lands of Ferguslie." On 28th February in the following year, they "authorised the Magistrates to roup and sell the plot of firs at Ferguslie opposite Thomas King's house." On 25th October, 1773, the Council "agreed to dispose to Bailie John Storie of the superiority of the lands of Ferguslie and Carriagehill, in life-rent only, during his life." The sale of this political privilege brought nothing but trouble to the Council. The object of the purchase was to secure the right to vote for a certain party to be M.P. for the shire. James Wilson, writer in Paisley, and William and John Wilson, merchants, Paisley, in the interest, no doubt, of the opposing political party in the county, "raised and executed summonses of reduction against the Magistrates and Council to compare before the Lords of Council and Session for reducing this life-rent granted by them." The Council were, however, in no way frightened at this formidable legal action in the Court of Session, but appointed "a committee to employ a proper agent and lawyers to appear in the defence of the said action"; and in order that the committee might not be without the sinews of war, they were authorised "to draw on the Treasurer for the necessary expense" (*Council Records*, 13th May, 1774). As no further reference is made to this matter in the Council records, we may safely conclude that either the pursuers were successful in their action of reduction, or that the Council cancelled the sale of the life-rent. On 25th January, 1793, Gavin Maxwell, merchant, and William Hume, wright, Paisley, made a proposal to the Council for "a lease of the lands of Ferguslie for the purpose of searching for coal." Although the Council approved of the proposal, yet it apparently ended in nothing being done. On 1st February following, the Council agreed "to roup sundry trees on the lands of Ferguslie, consisting of ash and other qualities of timber."

The increase in the manufacturing population of the town, and the consequent addition to the number of the poor, rendered the erection of a commodious hospital or poorhouse for the proper accommodation of the many destitute and infirm to be a necessity. In this good work the Council received the practical and hearty support of the inhabitants, and also that of the different trades, and other societies in the town. The terms of the contract entered into between the Council and the societies were that each should contribute the following sums to aid in erecting a poorhouse within the burgh:—

The Town Council,	...	...	...	£40	0	0
Merchants' Society,	...	...	...	30	0	0
Weavers' Society, ...	...	...	...	30	0	0
<hr/>				<hr/>		
Carried forward.	...	...	...	£100	0	0

<i>Brought forward,</i>	...	...	£100	0	0
Maltmen's Society, ...	...	...	10	0	0
The Wrights' Society, ...	...	...	10	0	0

In all, £120 0 0
 (*Council Records*, 29th September, 1749).

The Town Council and societies further agreed "that they would contribute the following sums annually during a period of ten years towards the maintenance of the poor people in the hospital. After ten years, to have the option to adhere to the foresaid yearly payments, to add, diminish, or be free :"—

The Town Council, ...	...	...	£10	0	0
Merchants' Society, ...	...	...	7	10	0
Weavers' Society, ...	...	...	15	0	0
Maltmen's Society, ...	...	...	2	0	0
The Wrights' Society, ...	...	...	1	10	0
Low Church Session, ...	...	...	20	0	0

In all, £56 0 0
 (*Council Records*, 30th September, 1749).

By this agreement, the Town Council were "to elect three managers, the Kirk Session three, and each of the fraternity three annually" (*Maltmen's Society Records*, 9th November, 1757). Within two years from the commencement, the present substantial poor-house was erected, at a total cost of £584 4s. 9¾d., and the contributors to this outlay were as follows :—

Sundry contributions of the inhabitants,	£170	14	6
The Town Session of Paisley, ...	25	0	0
An unknown hand, ...	20	0	0
Materials sold after building the house,	31	6	3
The Town Council, ...	40	0	0
Society of Merchants, ...	30	0	0
Society of Weavers, ...	30	0	0
Society of Maltmen, ...	10	0	0
Society of Tailors, ...	15	0	0
Society of Wrights, ...	10	0	0
Society of Shoemakers, ...	10	0	0
Town Council, to complete the building, over and above the £40 contracted for,	192	4	0¾

£584 4 9¾

The hospital was opened in May, 1752, and the first entry in the minute-book on the 26th of that month is thus—"Follows the names of the directors, written in their own hands, who are to visit the house daily by turns, and likewise what each of them have of remarks in their turns." This minute will be better understood

when it is explained that the intention of the directors, when the institution was first opened, was that it should be visited daily by one or two of their number, who should enter in their minute-book anything they had to report relating to the hospital. This arrangement continued for nearly a year, when the daily visits ceased. The directors had, besides, weekly, monthly, and quarterly meetings, and a general meeting annually. Of the office-bearers among the directors there was a convener, cashier, and clerk, who were elected annually. Their names were not given in the minutes till about six years after the opening of the hospital. The female superintendent of the hospital was for several years, even in the records, only called the mistress. There was also a teacher for the children, who likewise acted as chaplain.

In the early years of the hospital, the business coming before the directors was only of a routine nature, and not of very great importance. It related mainly to the purchasing of provisions, the admission of poor persons of different ages into the hospital; the giving of out-door relief, or pensions as they were termed, to those outside the house; the apprenticing of boys to trades; and the getting of females to be servants in respectable families. In the records there are, besides, many matters disposed of by the directors, which illustrate in no small degree the feelings, manners, and social circumstances of the time. We therefore give a few extracts from the records:—

22nd August, 1752.—These present ordered four double dales to be bought for a board to contain the names of those who contribute to the erection and support of the house.

28th November, 1752.—The Committee also agreed that a big Bible be bought for the use of the House and question-books for the children in it.

11th June, 1754.—The Largs Fair being now come, the Committee thought it proper that some sarking be bought for the use of the house.

9th December, 1755.—This day the Directors agreed with William Peterson, in order that he may keep vagrant beggars out of this town, to pay him one shilling and sixpence stg. weekly towards his maintenance.

21st December, 1756.—The Directors sett to Alexander Robertson the upper storie of the Poorhouse for drying manufactured goods from this time to Martinmas next, at the rent of £1 10s.

26th July, 1757.—This day the Directors present made an agreement with Robert Bowie, weaver in Paisley, with respect to John Fleming, a boy in the Poor House, viz., that the said John Fleming shall serve the said Robert Bowie as an apprentice for the space of three years, who obliges himself to instruct his said apprentice in the art of weaving as far as he is capable during his apprenticeship; and shall provide him in bed, board, and washing, and cloaths;

and shall give caution that his said apprentice shall be no further burdensome to the Poorhouse during the space of three years above-mentioned.

22nd November, 1757.—A general meeting of the Directors held this day both of the Directors, who officiated last year, and of the Directors who are to officiate this year.

28th August, 1758.—Mr. Andrew Miller, bookseller, London, gave to the Mistress £2 stg. for the use of the house, which was given to the Cashier.¹

5th September, 1758.—They have agreed with James Waterston to paint upon the walls of the hall the names of the contributors for the support of this Hospital at one farthing per letter, the size of which is to be according to letters upon the charity-box.

11th September.—This day the Hospital was visited by the Rev^d James Baine and the Directors, before whom (after prayer) the children said lessons and were catechised, and being exhorted, were dismissed with prayer.

8th May, 1759.—The Committee granted a precept on Thomas Marshall, cashier to this Hospital, for paying the remainder of the chaplain's salary, which was due on the 1st instant.²

10th July, 1759.—John Miller is ordered to write to Kilmarnock for a web of serge for the use of this Hospital. New books for the children are to be got from Mrs. Davies, and it is hoped the Session will help as to the expense of so necessary an article.

10th July, 1759.—The Directors also granted a precept on Mr. Marshall, cashier, to pay to Thomas Lang 15s. stg., for teaching of the children in the Hospital church music last winter.

18th January, 1760.—The Directors present, by a great majority of voices, have agreed that William M'Alpin be no longer a Director of this house during their time, as it appears from his conduct that he acted imprudently betwixt Duncan Knox and the Directors, and they recommend to the Society of Tailors to send another in his place.

23d September, 1760.—The Directors do agree that the chaplain in the Hospital become surety for the boys who go apprentice from the house; and that he do this in name of the Directors, as his security from any trouble which may arise from the boys' misconduct during their apprenticeship.

28th April, 1761.—The Committee has also ordered for a standing rule that the chaplain shall have 1s. 6d. for each indenture he shall write for the boys who go apprentices from the house; which he is to receive from the boy's master, as the house undertakes to pay the stamped paper, which at present is 1s. 8d. per sheet.

¹ This gentleman was a son of the Rev. Robert Miller, of the Abbey, already referred to.

² The chaplain's name is not stated, and this is the first time he is alluded to.

18th December, 1761.—The Directors present gave orders to Robert Cross, late cashier, to make haste and pay off all accompts due by the house for the preceding year, and particularly to pay the chaplain what remains due to him of £10 stg. as his appointed annual salary.

26th January, 1762.—The Directors agree and require that Robert Cross, their late cashier, against Monday next, grant his bill for £20 stg., and at the same time pay up the full of what else remains of the balance due to the house and charged to him as cashier, and that the said bill be payable to William Buchanan, their present cashier, at the term of Whitsunday next, otherwise a lawsuit must take place.

2d February, 1762.—W^m. Buchanan, cashier, has received a bill from Robert Cross, late cashier, as part of the balance due by him to the house, containing £20 11s. 8d., accepted by Robert Cross and James Wilson merchant in Paisley.

29th June, 1762.—Agree that W^m. M'Nair insure the Charity Workhouse in Paisley, viz.:—On the house, £250; on body and bed clothes and utensils, £50 stg., with W^m. Buchanan, agent for the Sun Fire Office, London.

11th January, 1763.—A half-dozen knives and forks at 3s. is received into the house.

10th May, 1763.—The Committee, taking into their consideration the original intention of this Hospital, do agree and resolve that, for the future, no bastard children shall be received into it upon any pretence whatever, and also order that all such children who are in it be removed away from it.

24th January, 1764.—Elizabeth Lyle having brought forth a child in uncleanness, and having concealed her being with child unto the very last, the Directors order her to be dismissed from the house as soon as she is recovered.

26th June, 1764.—The Committee thinks it proper that John Weir and James Whyte be employed to keep the beggars out of town, and if they refuse the office they ought to be expelled the house.

11th September, 1764.—John Lillie, chaplain, is allowed a broth pot pertaining to the Hospital, in regard that he had written some indentures for the house, for which he had got no payment.

18th September, 1764.—James Whyte, wright, having refused the office proposed to him (about beggars), is ordered by the Committee to dismiss him from the house immediately.

7th July, 1767.—John Scott went out apprentice this day, and was furnished with the following clothes:—A coat, almost new; new vest with sleeves, new breeches, new slip, three new shirts, new hose, new shoes, new bonnet, two napkins, new Bible and Catechism.

2d December, 1767.—They have also ordered that the bell in the Hospital be cast anew, and about 12lbs. weight added thereto, and it is to be sent to Bristol for said purpose. The present weight of the bell is 49lbs. 12oz.¹

18th August, 1767.—The Directors agree to make application to the Societies of Smiths, Masons, and Fleshers, for their assistance in building a house for the accommodation of distempered people, where they are to be taken care of and secured from danger.²

1st December, 1767.—Likewise, do appoint Friday next be a general meeting in order to agree on supplying the house with a chaplain and teacher, of which there seems to be a necessity at present.

8th November, 1768.—Also, ordered George Neilson to provide a boll of short malt, to be distilled into aquavitæ for the use of the Hospital.³

6th December, 1768.—Agreed that John Maxwell should continue for the space of another year as chaplain.

6th November, 1770.—A new box was brought in by Patrick Mann, for keeping and preserving what valuable papers belong to the Hospital; which box having two keys, one of them was delivered to Bailie Buchanan and the other to John Gemil, to be kept by them for the ensuing year.

Two key-keepers were afterwards annually appointed.

3d November, 1772.—Ordered an examination of the Hospital school to be held upon the last day of December next. Mr. Carson and Mr. Robert Orr are chosen to converse with the Magistrates and ministers to attend the same.

14th February, 1774.—Ordered the people in the house who formerly used to receive one penny per week for snuff, to receive again the same until a general meeting.

28th February, 1774.—A Committee ordered to enjoin upon Mrs. Lochhead to be frugal in managing these articles under her hand, viz.:—These articles of butter, sugar, cheese, and wheat bread; and the meeting resolve that no accounts shall be paid hereafter until they are read by a monthly general meeting and docketed by the convener, in presence of the Directors, at their meeting, and these accounts to be settled on a day when they are doctored.

6th February, 1776.—They then proceeded to elect a surgeon

¹ It was a popular saying that when the Poorhouse bell was rung it “said”—
“Tinklum, tanklum, tinklum, tanklum,
Tak your parritch or want them.”

² The Council have agreed to give a compliment of £10 stg. towards building cells in the Town Hospital for disordered people.—*Council Records*, 22d January, 1768.

³ Notices of this kind regularly appear afterwards in these records.

to attend the house, in room of Mr. Stevenson deceased, when W^m. Stewart, surgeon in Paisley, was made choice of unanimously.

5th November, 1776.—They made choice of James Andrew to continue schoolmaster and chaplain.

4th May, 1779.—The Directors of the Weavers' Society intimated to the Directors of the Hospital that they should continue the old mode of out-pensioners, otherwise they would discontinue their yearly payment.

22nd June, 1779.—Ordered that, as Alexander Jamieson has for several days by gone been always drunk, and always neglects his work that he should do to the house, therefore he is to be sent out of the house ; and if he return any more, he is only to lay in Bedlam, but to have no bed clothes, nor anything else but straw.

7th September, 1779.—To agree with a man to teach the children in the house church music.

1st December, 1779.—The representatives from the Tailors and Wrights—each of them gave in a bearing that they had withdrawn both their representatives and support from the house from this date. The representatives from the Shoemakers and Fleshers also declared verbally that they had withdrawn.

The cause of these withdrawals was the same as that of the Old Weavers, already stated—the stopping of out-door relief by the Hospital Directors.

13th March, 1781.—John Hart and Alex. Jamieson had been fighting and swearing in the Hospital, and as the former was the aggressor, he was ordered to pay one shilling for swearing ; and in case he fails to do so, to be confined to the cells for five nights and have only straw to sleep upon ; and Alex. Jamieson, for swearing, to pay one shilling, which if he fails to do, he is to be confined three nights in the cells, and to lay as above.

14th September, 1781.—Agreed that there be an iron rail placed on the front of the house upon the palisade wall.

1st April, 1783.—Agreed John Morrison to shave the old men in this house and to dock the children's hair for one year to come, commencing from this date, for which he is to get £1 4s. stg.

Frequent appointments of this kind are referred to in subsequent records.

21st September, 1784.—A communication from the Town Council to the Directors of the Hospital was read as follows:—The Council agree to sell to the Managers of the Poor's Hospital the piece of ground at the back of the same, at the price of 10s. per fall, as the same shall measure, on this condition, that no buildings shall be erected thereon but an outter stone dyke, and the same shall be used as garden ground, and to no other use ; and if the Poor's Hospital shall cease, and not be occupied as such, this

ground shall return to the community, on their repaying back the price to such as have a power to receive the same. The meeting agreed to take the ground on the above price and conditions, except that they want to have liberty to build such buildings on said ground as shall be found needful for the use of the said Poor's Hospital, and occupied as such; and appointed a Committee to return thanks to the Town Council for the attention and regard that they had for this hospital, and to agree with them and get a disposition to said ground.

5th October, 1784.—Then the meeting made choice of Mr. John Whyte, surgeon in Paisley, to be surgeon to this house from this date till the first June next.

This appointment of House Surgeon is in the place of W^m. Stewart, who was elected on 1st June last.

7th June, 1785.—They fixed the salary of M^{rs}. Robertson, the mistress, at £12 12s. per year, and her other privileges as formerly.

6th December, 1785.—Ordered James Andrew to get bonnets for the boys in the house, to be used on the Sabbath days.

6th February, 1787.—There was a motion made in the house that every master that takes an apprentice out of the house after this date, shall be obliged to take a seat in some one of the places of public worship where he sits himself for him; and to keep him under the inspection of some of his family, and to see that he attends public worship regularly.

6th March, 1787.—That upon M^{rs}. Robertson's representation of the trouble at present in the house, the meeting have agreed to get some wine for the house, to fulfil the surgeon's order, the cashier to furnish it.

4th May, 1787.—The managers engaged a woman to teach the girls in the house tambouring work in its different ways, at the rate of £1 10s. per annum for each. The hours of attendance in summer to be from seven morning to seven at night, with hours for meals and two hours for education; in winter, to begin after breakfast and continue till eight at night, with the same time for education and one hour for dinner.

4th December.—Appointed a Committee to converse with M^r. Banks anent his taking Thomas Drummond to be his apprentice to learn to play on the fiddle.

2nd June, 1789.—The managers unanimously passed a vote of thanks to M^r. Connachie, Sheriff-Depute of the County, for his obliging and disinterested services.

14th July, 1789.—Agreed that a four-loom shop and rooms above shall be built.

6th October, 1789.—Reported that the Magistrates and Council were pleased to agree that the money arising from the mortcloths of the town be given to the Session.

2nd February, 1790.—M^{rs}. Robertson has liberty to employ the women in the house to spin wool to M^r. Callings as she can, forby what is needed in the house.

16th February, 1790.—W^m. Love was brought before the meeting for raising disturbance and striking John Andrews, therefore he is ordered to the cells.

Frequently inmates, who caused disturbances and misbehaved, were confined in the cells, or "bedlam," as it is sometimes called.

7th May, 1790.—The Committee, after communing with M^{rs}. Duncan, agreed that she shall have both boys and girls in the hospital for tambouring for three years, at 1/3 per week the first year, 1/6 the second year, and 2/- the third year—M^{rs}. Duncan to have two months' trial of each new beginner before wages commence. The Managers reserved the powers to put any of them to service when they are eleven years old.

The Town Council, on 2nd November, 1790, in order to assist the Managers in suppressing the begging practice, recommend to the Magistrates to make a similar proclamation with that of Glasgow against vagrants and beggars, and to look for a proper place to confine them in.

5th July, 1791.—The meeting agreed that in place of Saturday afternoon, which has for some time past been allowed people in the house for recreation, it should be changed to Wednesday afternoon, as a more proper day.

5th July, 1791.—James Andrew, the clerk and schoolmaster, represented to the meeting that, from frailty and indisposition, he was unable to discharge the duties of his office, and wanted an assistant. The Managers appointed a Committee to endeavour to find a proper successor, and to report.

15th July, 1791.—The Committee reported Thomas Crichton, schoolmaster in Paisley, as a proper person for the office of schoolmaster and clerk to the house, both from his abilities as a teacher and his moral character. The Managers accordingly appointed M^r. Crichton to be assistant-schoolmaster and clerk, and to have a salary of £25 yearly during the life of the present teacher, M^r. Andrew.

1st November, 1791.—Upon the application of Th^s. Drummond for liberty to leave the house, the Managers, considering that he is now so well instructed in the violin, allow him to go, and appoint the former Committee anent him to speak with his master about further instruction.

8th February, 1792.—The Managers allowed M^{rs}. Robertson, the mistress, £2 10s. yearly, to enable her to give tea and sugar to sick people of the house.

5th June, 1792.—Agreed to appoint M^r. Crichton, the master of the house, to be clerk to the cashier, as there was now great trouble

attending this office, in keeping the accounts and purchasing victuals; and also agreed that application be made to one of the banks in town for a cash credit on account current, in order that any money in the cashier's hands from time to time may be deposited for behoof of the house, by which a saving of interest may be made, and also that liberty may be had of drawing to the extent of £50 in case of necessity—Mr. Crichton's remuneration to be afterwards fixed.

4th September, 1792.—The Rev^d. Mr. Gillies applied to the Managers to have a person who had been “deprived of his reason” to be taken into the Hospital, but they declined to do so, “both on account of there being no proper apartment in it for lodging him, nor fit persons to attend to him”; and, besides, that it is not the original design and intent of the Hospital for lodging mad persons. The Managers were also of opinion that some representation should be made by the Sessions and them to the Magistrates and Town Council for erecting a proper house for mad persons, which is every day becoming more necessary from the great increase of the inhabitants of the town.

6th January, 1793.—The Managers voted the sum of two guineas to Mr. Lochhead, weaver in Sneddon, for teaching the children in the house church music..

5th February, 1793.—The Managers appointed a Committee to make application to the Magistrates and Town Council anent building cells.

3rd September, 1793.—There was laid before the meeting a letter from Mr. Whyte, surgeon, addressed to the Managers, enclosing five guineas for the benefit of the Hospital, and containing some remarks upon his account.

1st October, 1793.—A committee who had been formerly appointed to meet with Mr. Whyte, surgeon, reported “that he had offered to serve the house at £12 per year,” which the Managers agreed to; “and that his attendance shall be as formerly.”

5th April, 1796.—The children of the Hospital were this day examined, and the Managers being well satisfied with their proficiency, agree that, on account of the present high price of provisions, the Master shall receive a present of ten guineas for his encouragement.

20th June, 1796.—The meeting ordered that a strait jacket be immediately furnished for the Hospital, as they consider necessary to be put upon persons in the state of Margaret Mitchell, who was in a deranged state of mind.

2nd August, 1796.—Agreed that John Whyte shall continue as surgeon to Hospital until 1st June next, and ordered the Clerk to inform the rest of the surgeons of the town, who petitioned for their succeeding in rotation to said office, that if they think of petitioning further they must do it in the months of April or May, as the surgeon is always chosen the first Tuesday of June.

7th March, 1797.—M^{rs}. Robertson, the mistress of the Hospital, having, in consequence of her failing health, resigned her situation, M^{rs}. Montgomery was chosen her successor.

13th June, 1797.—The meeting agreed that the master of the house, Th^s. Crichton, shall have forty-five pounds stg. for his yearly salary, besides £5 stg. for doing the business of cashier.

4th July, 1797.—Agreed that the house shall be visited by one of the Managers every day in the week, except Sabbath and Tuesday, according to the original articles of the house; and that said Director shall each day he visits write down in a book his report respecting the state of the house. It is agreed that any Manager neglecting to visit the house in his turn shall pay sixpence stg.; but if any Manager finds it inconvenient, he shall have it in his power to send another of the Managers in his place.

23rd January, 1798.—Ordered that Adam Muir, in a deranged state of mind, be admitted into the cells.

As the Managers at this time commenced to receive a few lunatics, they must have made some arrangements for their accommodation.

3rd April, 1796.—Agreed that M^{rs}. Montgomery, the present mistress of the Hospital, shall have £20 stg. of yearly salary, besides a gratuity of £5 stg. for tea.

2nd January, 1799.—The meeting, considering the increasing number of insane persons for whose admission application is made to this Hospital, and that there is no proper accommodation nor people to take care of persons in such unhappy circumstances, appoint a committee to wait on the Magistrates and Council respecting what plan may be most proper to be adopted for getting such persons better accommodated and taken care of.

24th April, 1799.—M^{rs}. Montgomery having given up her charge as mistress of this Hospital, the meeting unanimously made choice of M^{rs}. Jackson (Helen Anderson) to succeed her in the office.

2nd September, 1800.—Agreed that, on account of the exceeding high price of provisions, the master of the House shall receive a present of £10.

13th January, 1801.—The meeting, taking into their consideration the very high price of all the necessaries of life, appoint Messrs. Robert Brown, W^m. Niven, Robert Speir, as a committee to make enquiry if any other kind of food than what is commonly used might be more advantageous for the house.

The first proposal by the Council to obtain powers to levy a tax on ale came before the Council on 31st October, 1752, It is likely, however, such an important matter would frequently have been con-

sidered previously in private by the members of Council. This important resolution is as follows :—

“Said day it was agreed by a majority of voices that application should be made to Parliament for an act imposing two pennies Scots on the pint of ale vended within the burgh and suburbs thereof, as extensive as the same can be obtained ; and in order to the furtherance and pursuance of this act, they thereby nominate and appoint the three Magistrates presently in office, together with William Caldwell, James Storey, and W^m. Langate, late Bailie, as a committee, to meet from time to time and concert the proper means to be taken for making the said application and the method and nature thereof, and to report from time to time as to their procedure.”

The subject again came before the Council on 20th February, 1753, when it was resolved by a majority “that application be made to the Earl of Dundonald for purchasing his concurrence in allowing the act to comprehend his Lordship’s lands and estate to the distance of half a mile beyond the boundary of the burgh on all sides ;” and that his Lordship for this privilege should receive a sum not exceeding £100. The objectors to this agreement were Robert Finlayson, late Bailie, and Thomas Kerr, postmaster, who took “instruments in the hands of the clerk.” The Act of Parliament which the Council obtained in this year was entitled “an Act for laying a duty of two pennies Scots, or one-sixth part of a penny sterling, on every Scots pint of ale and beer which shall be brewed for sale, brought into, tapped, or sold within the town of Paisley and liberties thereof, in the county of Renfrew, for improving the navigation of the river Cart, and other purposes.” The preamble of this Act, which fully explains all that it contemplated, was as follows :—

“Whereas the town of Paisley, in the county of Renfrew, carries on a considerable trade in the manufactures of thread and linen cloth, and is situate on the River Cart, which falls into the Clyde about four miles below Glasgow ; which said River Cart is, by reason of the banks, stones, and rocks therein, scarcely navigable to the town of Paisley except at the highest spring tides ; and the making of the said river practicable and commodious at all times would be a great advantage to the said town ; and whereas there is not at present a sufficient Prison, Court-house, School-house for the education of the children, or House of Correction for the punishment of vagrants in the said town, and the Shambles are at present in the middle of the town, and a great nuisance to the inhabitants ; and, whereas the inhabitants of the said town have at their own expence built a new church, but cannot provide for a minister to be called thereto, nor can they make the said river navigable, build a Prison, Court-house, and House of Correction, or remove the Shambles to some more commodious place, without the aid of Parliament, the Bailies and Council of the said Burgh of Paisley do therefore most humbly beseech your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the King’s most excellent Majesty, by and with

the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in the present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and after the 24th day of June, in the year of our Lord, 1753, for the term of thirty-one years, and from thence to the end of the then next session of Parliament, there shall be laid an imposition or duty of two pennies Scots, or one-sixth part of a penny sterling, over and above the duty of excise paid or payable to his Majesty, his heirs and successors, upon every Scots pint of ale and beer that shall be either brewed, brought into, tapped, or sold within the said town of Paisley and liberties thereof; and that the said imposition or duty shall be paid or made payable by the brewers for sale, or venders, or sellers of all such ale and beer to the Magistrates and Town Council of the Burgh of Paisley for the time being, who are hereby nominated and appointed Trustees for making the said River navigable, building a Prison, Court-house, School-house, and House of Correction; providing a maintenance for the ministers to be called to the said new church; and removing the Shambles to a more commodious place; and also for putting in execution all other the powers in and by this Act given; and that the money so raised and collected by this Act is, and hereby shall, be vested in the said Trustees; and the same and every part thereof shall be paid, applied, and disposed of, or assigned to and for the several uses, intents, and purposes aforesaid, the reasonable charges expended, or to be expended in about, or by reason of passing the present Act of Parliament being first deducted."

The other parts of this Act relate to the clauses for carrying it out. The Council greatly over-estimated the amount of money derivable from this tax, for it was altogether inadequate to carry out the important purposes the Act contemplated. At the expiry of the period to which the Act was limited, all that had been realized from the tax was the sum of £2634 6s. 4½d. For three years at the commencement the town collected the tax, but afterwards it appears to have been farmed out. The tax in 1757 was £76 10s.; in 1762, £100; in 1767, £75; in 1772, £85; in 1777, £85; in 1782, £85; in 1783, £105; in 1784, £105; and for sixteen months after the Act expired, £120. The money obtained by this tax was expended as follows:—

1753.—Expense connected with obtaining the Act,	£271	1	8
1754.—Building the Grammar School,	298	0	0
1758.—Building the Prison, Courthouse, &c.,	1053	7	0
1767.—Building, fitting-up, and completing the Flesh Market and Slaughterhouse,	925	10	9½
1774.—Deepening of the River,	86	6	11
	<hr/>		
	£2634	6	4½

Although the deepening of the river and the improvement of the navigation formed the first and principal reason for this impost on the consumpt of ale in the town, yet it will be seen from the foregoing statement of expenditure that only £86 6s. 11d. was applied to that purpose. No reason is assigned for this course, but we suppose the Council considered the erection of the Grammar School, Prison, and Flesh Market were the items of which the inhabitants stood most in need. They would, no doubt, also be influenced by the fact that the revenue arising from the tax, with what they would otherwise advance, would be sufficient to enable them to complete these useful and important undertakings. Very likely, also, they believed that they could obtain a renewal of the Act, which would enable them to apply the proceeds to the improvement of the river. When the beer tax ceased to be collected, the account showing the application of the money was examined and signed as correct on 23d March, 1786, by the Overseers appointed under the Act of Parliament. The balance of this account, which includes interest, amounted to £1450 os. 2½d, being the sum advanced by the Council, in addition to what they received from the beer tax, in the erection of the Grammar School. The Overseers who signed this account were George Houston of Johnstone, Gavin Ralston of Ralston, and Charles Maxwell of Merksworth.

Notwithstanding the general dislike to this tax among the inhabitants, the Council resolved to apply to Parliament to have it renewed. The inhabitants, however, were strongly opposed to this proposal, and particularly the Societies, which now exercised a considerable influence in the community. The Maltmen's Society gave the resolution of the Council their most determined opposition. On 10th June, 1784, at a meeting, when "the Boxmaster, Collector, and a great majority of the trade" were present, "they resolved that the said Bill, in so far at least as relates to the twopenny tax, ought to be vigorously opposed as a grievous and unnecessary burden upon the inhabitants, and highly prejudicial to the country in general, and to the interests of this Society in particular. Resolve that this Society will cheerfully concur with such of the Societies and public-spirited inhabitants of Paisley who entertain similar sentiments of the evil tendency of this Bill; and will, to the utmost of their ability, contribute to a strenuous opposition thereof in Parliament; and it is in the meantime enjoined upon the Boxmaster to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the most patriotic members in both Houses of Parliament, humbly soliciting their countenance and support in such measures as shall be adopted for the above purpose; and likewise, to transmit a copy thereof to the different Incorporations and Societies of Maltsters and Brewers in other towns, requesting their aid and concurrence in this matter, which ought to be looked upon as a common cause throughout Scotland."

The strong and very unanimous opposition of the inhabitants to

the renewal of this tax upon ale and beer caused the Council to relinquish the Bill, after they and its opponents in the town had expended about £500.

From the steady and continued increase of the population in this period, it became necessary to erect more places of worship. The first of these to be built was the High Church, which was finished in 1754, at an expense, not including the ground, of £1558 12s. 10d. Of that sum the Council paid £173 9s. 6d., and the balance was advanced by a number of the inhabitants, who in return obtained sittings in the church. The plan of the building was drawn by John Whyte, one of the Bailies. The first minister was the Rev. James Baine, who was translated from Killearn, and inducted on 22d April, 1756. His stipend was £100, including allowance for manse and glebe. In December, 1765, he gave up his charge, and accepted a call to be pastor of the Relief congregation, South College Street, Edinburgh.¹ His successor was the Rev. George Mure, Old Cumnock, who was inducted 30th October, 1766. His stipend was £112, including allowance for manse and glebe, but it was afterwards increased to £120. In 1776, the congregation agreed to erect the High Church Steeple, from a plan also supplied by Bailie Whyte. It was not till June, 1771, that the clock in the steeple was put in motion. Mr. Mure died 20th July, 1771.² His successor was the Rev. William Taylor, Lainshaw, who was inducted 21st July, 1772, the stipend being £120. He was translated to the High Church, Glasgow, in 1780. He was succeeded by the Rev. John Findlay, a probationer residing in Glasgow, who was ordained 14th March, 1781. His stipend was also £120.

The population being still on the increase, another church in connection with the Church of Scotland was required, and the Middle Church was erected near the High Church in 1781. It contained 1520 sittings, of which 865 belonged to those who subscribed towards its erection, and 655 to the community. The expense of the erection was £2117 5s. 9d., and a number of the inhabitants subscribed £2149 11s. 7d. The plan of this church was drawn by Samuel Henning, wright (*Council Records*, 25th June, 1779).

The burgh, at its disjunction from the Abbey Parish in 1736,

¹ Mr. Baine died 17th January, 1790, in the eightieth year of his age and sixtieth of his ministry. His published works were—Sermon preached at the translation of the Rev. Mr. Wotherspoon from Beith to the Low Church, Paisley, 16th June, 1757; Sermon preached at Edinburgh, 2d December, 1770; Volume of Sermons, containing twenty-five discourses, 1778.

² Mr. Mure was the author of the following works :—An Essay on Christ's Cross and Crown, to which are subjoined Six Sermons, 1769; The Parable of the Sower, Illustrated and Applied, 1769; The Parable of the Tares, in Twenty-one Sermons, to which are added Two Sermons, 1771; A Sermon preached at the Opening of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, on 13th October, 1769; Four Table Services, delivered in Tollbooth Church, Edinburgh, 16th March, 1760; Sermon preached 20th April, 1769, at the Admission of the Rev. Colin Campbell to the Church and Parish of Kenfrew.

formed one parish; but by a deed of the Court of Teinds, concurred in by the Presbytery and the Council, it was on 20th February, 1781, divided into three parishes, the Low Church Parish, the High Church Parish, and the Middle Church Parish, these names being given from the position in which the churches were situated. The parishes were divided as follows:—

“The Laigh Church division, from the bridge on the south side, Water Wynd, (both sides southward), Water Brae, whole of Causey-side, (both sides), New Street, Shuttle Street, Orchard Street, and lanes off that, Saucel, Seedhill, Gordon's Lone, Prussia Street, and Common Lone (Canal Street) to Storie Street, (both sides). To the High Church Parish, head of New Street, both sides westwards as far as the town's property, including Storie Street and houses in Oakshaw west from the church. To the Middle Church Parish, from the head of New Street eastwards to the Cross, (both sides), including the houses round the Cross, and to the Old Bridge, (both sides), and to Dyers' Wynd, School Wynd, including these streets, and the whole of the town's property to the north thereof” (*Council Records*, 26th February, 1781).

The Rev. John Snodgrass, the first minister of the Middle Church, was translated from Dundee, and inducted to the pastorate on 21st July, 1781. His stipend at first was in all £120, but three years afterwards it was raised to £130. He died in 1787;¹ and Jonathan Rankine, his successor, was ordained to the charge on 22nd June, 1797, his stipend being £145.

The first congregation of dissenters from the Church of Scotland in Paisley was the Associated Session of Paisley and Greenock, known also by the name of Antiburghers. The first place in which they worshipped (1750) was the building in Moss Row, called the Meeting-house, which has been already frequently referred to. They had no regularly appointed minister till the election of Mr. James Elice, probationer, in 1756. Their first church was on the site of the present one in Oakshaw Street, and was erected in 1762 (*W. Semple's History*, p. 308). On 28th August, 1787, Mr. William Ferrier was ordained as colleague to Mr. Elice, whose health was failing. This union continued till the death of Mr. Elice, on 10th June, 1798, in the sixty-sixth year of his age and forty-second of his ministry.

The church belonging to what was called the Burgher congregation, in Abbey Close, was erected in 1769. On 14th June in that year, Mr. Samuel Kinloch, the first minister, was ordained to the pastorate (*Historical Sketch of that Church*, 1866).

In 1767, a Congregational Church was opened in the Abbey buildings; and in 1782, a Berean Church was opened in New

¹ His literary productions were a sermon preached in Edinburgh before the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge in Scotland, on 29th May, 1794.—Edinburgh, 1795. And two years after his death, a Commentary on part of the Book of Revelations, printed pages 592.—Paisley, 1799.

Sneddon Street,—the first minister being the Rev. William Neilson (*W. Semple's History*, p. 308).

In 1782, a Chapel of Relief was built in Canal Street. The first minister was the Rev. Patrick Hutchison, who was translated from St. Ninians, and inducted 22nd May, 1783.

The first Cameronian, or Reformed Presbyterian Church, was in Lowndes Lane, New Sneddon Street. It was first used as a preaching station; and the Rev. Thomas Henderson, who lived at Kilmalcolm, and had a church there, officiated in the Paisley church every third Sunday.

The Gaelic Church, in Oakshaw Street, was erected in 1793, as a place of worship for the numerous persons from the Highlands of Scotland residing in Paisley and neighbourhood who did not thoroughly understand the English language. The services were appointed to be regularly conducted in the Gaelic tongue, and the church to be connected with the Church of Scotland, and to form one of the churches of the Presbytery of Paisley. But no parish or territory was assigned to this church. The first minister was Mr. William Simpson, who was ordained in 1795.

In the Low Parish Church, Mr. Peter Scott, who had been ordained pastor, as already stated, in 1740, died on 4th August, 1753. Robert Findlay, D.D., was called from Galston, as his successor, to this church, on 29th January, 1754. In 1756, he was translated to the Ramshorn Parish Church, Glasgow, and afterwards he filled the Divinity Chair of the University in that city, till he died, in 1814. Mr. Wotherspoon, who was called from Beith, succeeded Dr. Findlay, and was inducted on 16th June, 1757. His stipend was fixed in whole at £100. In 1766, he received a call from a congregation in Dundee, but the Council, assisted by many of the inhabitants, successfully opposed his removal. In April of that year, the Council presented him with £15, as a compliment; and in October following, £12 annually was added to his stipend. On 22nd June, 1768, he resigned his charge, and went to America, where he received the appointment of President of Perceton College, New Jersey. His death took place in 1794, at the age of seventy-two years. His successor was Mr. James Morrison, minister of Strathblane, who was inducted 29th June, 1769. Mr. Morrison died 28th March, 1781; and the next incumbent was Colin Gillies, assistant and successor to Mr. David Turner, West Parish Church, Greenock, who was inducted 19th December, 1781.¹ On 22nd January, 1790, the Council agreed to fit up two chandeliers, of twelve candles each, in the church.

¹ The following is an extract from Rowland Hill's journal of August 14th, 1798:—"I passed the evening at the house of the truly affectionate son of that truly apostolic man, the late Dr. Gillies, the author of the memoirs of Mr. Whitefield's life. His house was filled with good ministers of the different denominations, all living in affectionate love and cordiality with each other. This makes Paisley the paradise of Scotland. Indeed, hell would be a paradise if love were there; and an earthly paradise is little better than hell, if love be

At this period the Michaelmas head court was held the second Friday after the 29th day of September ; Candlemas head court on the second Friday after the 30th day of January ; Beltane head court on the third Friday after Pasch or Easter, being the 10th April (*Council Records*, 4th October, 1756). At Michaelmas head court, 15th October, 1756, the Council elected the following committees. We omit the names :—

Lyners, visitors of the meal market, of wheat, bread, and butter, of iron works, of cow hides, &c., of shoe market, metsters, keepers of the keys of the charter chest, of the standard weight, visitors of malt, of wright work, town's smith, town's wright and mason, of inspectors of bad yarn, clerk, fiscal, visitors of thread and reels, water works keys lodged, directors of the poorhouse, master of work, and visitors of bad cloth ; and on 25th October, 1760, they elected six weavers "to be inspectors of ill-counted yarn and cotton and reels within ten quarters, with powers to inspect yarn and cotton brought into the town, as well as in shops."

The following is the resolution of the Council of 5th May, 1767, relating to the appointment of an assessor :—

"The Magistrates and Council, considering the great increase of the town's inhabitants, and the consequential multiplicity of the public business, both respecting the community itself, as well as the administration of public justice, find it necessary, and accordingly resolve, to have a lawyer as an assessor to the Magistrates, as many other burghs in Scotland have, that they may consult him in all matters of importance ; and having entire confidence in the integrity and ability of Mr. Islay Campbell, advocate, hereby appoint him the town's assessor during pleasure, and appoint him a salary £100 Scots, or £8 6s. 8d. stg."

Mr. Campbell having resigned (the reason is not stated), the Council, on 7th March, 1783, made choice of Mr. Robert Cullen, advocate, to be their assessor, at the same salary. He was appointed one of the Judges in the Court of Session, and the Council then appointed Mr. Robert Davidson, advocate, to be their assessor.

When the Council first resolved to fit up lamps to light the streets, they adopted an important measure for the increase of the comfort and safety of the inhabitants. It was in November, 1756, that they first moved in this matter, and their resolution is as follows :—

"Said day, the Magistrates and Council, considering how much the town are in want of lamps for the service of the inhabitants in

absent. My soul loves Paisley, for there I believe Christians love each other. May the precious leaven that is amidst them spread itself throughout the north ! I grieve to find so many separated by human laws on earth, who are all to be united in one by Divine law in heaven and glory." A true picture of the state of feeling in Paisley, as it exists in the present day, would not, we fear, be so flattering.

the winter, and how necessary lamps are in the night-time of that season, have, therefore, after the good example of other burghs, resolved, and hereby resolve, that a competent number of lamps be immediately purchased for the use and service of the inhabitants of the burgh, not exceeding thirty; and appoint the Magistrates to agree with tradesmen for the same; and the expense of making and setting up of the said lamps to be advanced from the town's common stock, but with this provision that the said lamps shall be maintained at the expense of the inhabitants in oil and wicks for keeping the same burning; and the inhabitants shall also pay on their own expense the person or persons to be appointed by the Magistrates and Council for cleaning, keeping, and lighting the said lamps."

It is doubtful, however, if this resolution was carried out at that period, for W. Semple, who lived in Paisley about that time, states that "in 1768 the town erected a number of lamps to give light to the streets" (*W. Semple's History*, p. 331).

On 25th September, 1786, the Council entered into a contract with James Borland, merchant in Glasgow, "to light the lamps in the town for three years, at three-half-pence per lamp each night, and to furnish oil, &c."

At this time the Council had two fire-engines, but as they were considered insufficient for extinguishing fires expeditiously, a number "of the principal inhabitants in the town" contributed money to purchase a larger one for the purpose of preserving the "town from the danger and hazard of fire." The Council agreed that the fire-engine should be bought in London, along with a leather pipe. The engine was to be of the kind marked No. 4 in the London proposals, and to be sent down by sea. (*Council Records*, 4th January, 1760). It is not stated how much money the inhabitants subscribed, nor the price of the engine.

The first notice we have found regarding the cleaning of the streets at the public expense was on 24th July, 1771, when the Council entered into an agreement with Francis Douglas, Abbots-inch, for having this necessary measure carried out. The agreement with him was to the effect that he was, at his own expense, to have the exclusive privilege "to clat the whole streets and lanes in this town, and to carry off the dung, ashes, straw, and other garbage that shall be laid down without the front or street doors," for the space of three years. The middens in back closes were, however, to be carried off by the proprietors. At the same time, the inhabitants were discharged from laying down any stones or rubbish on any of the streets or lanes, unless in connection with building operations, under a penalty of 5s. for each offence. This contract and arrangement connected therewith were to be proclaimed three times at the usual places by tuck of drum (*Council Records*, 24th July, 1771). On 1st June, 1792, the Council enact that none of the inhabitants within the burgh be allowed to lay down sand or stones on the streets for the purpose of bruising the same in time coming."

The Magistrates and Council considered it part of their duty to regulate the way in which the measurement of the mason work of new buildings should be done ; and on 26th January, 1781, they enacted "that the side walls of houses or buildings within the liberties of the town of Paisley shall be measured on the inside of the house, from gavel to gavel, and the joist gavils on the outside, as from corner to corner, and the measurement thereof to be cast up according to such measure."

Very few resolutions appear in the *Council Records* regarding the watching of the town at night by the town guard. It appears to have become the practice for the inhabitants, when it fell by rotation to them to watch, to provide substitutes. To check this practice, the Council resolved that "in order that the town guard may be on a respectable footing for the safety of the inhabitants, all heads of families shall mount guard, and not send any person in their place, under the penalty of half-a-crown for each transgression, unless such person shall give in an excuse to be accepted and approved by the Magistrates (*Council Records*, 24th November, 1792).

The westmost portion of the range of Oakshaw Hill, the site of the prætorium of the Roman Camp, and called the Hutt in this period, was formed into a bowling-green in 1758.¹ This was done by the Council "for the benefit of the community, and they authorised the Magistrates to receive estimates of the expense of furnishing the same and agreeing with tradesmen" (*Council Records*, 25th November, 1758). No time apparently was lost in proceeding with the formation of the bowling-green, for on 27th February following "they appointed the fir trees that are now cut down in the Hutt at Oakshawhead to be sold by roup." On 4th January, 1760, the Council "authorised the Magistrates to write to London for twenty-four pairs of bowls for the town's bowling-green." The dimensions of the bowling-green were sixty-three feet long and thirty-eight feet broad. On 9th January, 1761, the Magistrates reported to the Council that they had subscribed a tack in favour of Hugh Fulton, gardener in Paisley, of the town bowling-green at the Hutt for the space of three years, at the yearly rent of £8 stg." In 1784, "the Council authorised the Magistrates to procure eighteen bowls for the bowling-green, and to take the tacksman's receipt therefor." There was also a billiard-table at the bowling-green (*IV. Scople's History*, p. 329).

There is every probability that the first bowling-green formed in

² The game of bowls, a product of the middle ages, has in Scotland been traced to the thirteenth century ; a bowling-alley or bowling-green was attached to every manor-house. During the eighteenth century the game was practised generally, a public bowling-green being constructed in the principal hamlets. In 1769 a Society of Bowlers at Edinburgh obtained from the Governors of Heriot's Hospital a lease of ground for a public bowling-green.—*Social Life in Scotland*, by Rev. Chs. Rogers, vol. ii., p. 301.

Paisley was what was called the Abbey Bowling-green. It was situated on the east side of Mill Street, at the southern end of that street. The Town Council bought this bowling-green, along with a piece of ground adjoining, "for the benefit of the rock for stones for the streets" (*Council Records*, 10th November, 1777). The rock is hard whin, and the place has been known as the Town's Quarry for upwards of a century. Although the ground was bought by the Council from Lord Abercorn, yet there is every likelihood that the bowling-green was laid off by the Earl of Dundonald when that family lived at the Place of Paisley.

In 1780, a brutal murder was committed on the road, at the north side of the bowling-green, at Oakshawhead. A young man of the name of William Waterston, a painter by trade, became acquainted with a young lady of the name of Stewart, who was believed to be betrothed to a Mr. Archibald Paisley, a wealthy merchant in Paisley. Mr. Paisley and some friends, the night on which the murder took place, were spending the evening in the Saracen's Head Inn. Two of them had occasion to go to the front door of the inn, when they saw Mr. Waterston going along the street. They asked him to take a walk up towards the bowling-green, and he reluctantly consented. When the party came to the bowling-green, the two men from the inn commenced to question him regarding his intimacy with Miss Stewart, and desired him to promise that he would henceforth give up all intercourse with her. On refusing to do so, he was knocked down; but immediately rising to his feet, and grappling with his assailant, he had the best of it, when the other with a large stone struck him so severely on the head, that he fell to the ground insensible, and the others ran away. Mr. Waterston afterwards recovered so far as to be able to go home to the Cross, where he resided. The surgeon who was sent for found his head to be severely injured, and he died in the course of the night. The two alleged assailants, Mr. James Orr and Mr. Walter Cross, absconded immediately after his death. They were, however, summoned before the Court of Justiciary on a charge of murder; and appearing on the day of trial, they were acquitted. The popular belief was that they were guilty, and had been unduly indulged by the court. Mr. James Orr was afterwards Sheriff of Renfrewshire; and it was generally believed that it was Mr. Walter Cross who used the fatal stone. The stone, discoloured as if with blood, was some time afterwards placed in the enclosing wall of the bowling-green, at the north side, and had W.C. cut on it. Such is the tradition about this stone which we have frequently looked upon. It remained there till the wall was taken down when the John Neilson Institution was erected. Mr. Paisley afterwards married Miss Stewart.

The Old Bridge had hitherto been the only means of connecting the burgh with the east side of the river, unless we take into account the fords at Saucel and Sneddon, which could only be used when

the river was not in flood. In this period many houses were built in Sneddon district; and a great part of the ground on the east side of the river was laid off for feus by the Earl of Dundonald. A bridge, instead of a dangerous ford at Sneddon, became, therefore, absolutely necessary, particularly to accommodate the large population that had gathered on the west side of the river. The inhabitants of Sneddon district, who appear to have possessed much public spirit and enterprise, resolved to erect a bridge at Sneddon ford at their own expense. They, therefore, "presented a petition to the Magistrates and Town Council, representing the great advantages that would arise to the public from the erecting a bridge across the water of Cart at Sneddon ford¹; and as they and several others had agreed to erect this bridge at their own expense, craved their concurrence therein; and that they would appoint a committee to inspect the ground, in order to conclude what part was most convenient to rest the bridge upon" (*Memorial of the Inhabitants of Sneddon to action of Suspension by the Magistrates and Town Council*, p. 5). No reply was given by the Magistrates and Council to this communication; and as it was rumoured that they objected to the erection of the bridge, because the income from the duty upon the pint of ale, granted by a late Act of Parliament, would be injured, the inhabitants of Sneddon sent in another petition, and offered to take a long lease of that duty at the rent it then yielded, and also offered to take a lease of the toll on the Old Bridge at the rent it then realised. As this petition was treated in a similar way, the inhabitants of Sneddon presented a petition to the Justices of Peace in Quarter Sessions, praying for their authority to erect the bridge, which, having been intimated to the Magistrates and Town Council, a representation was preferred in their name, declining the jurisdiction of the court. This plea was repelled, and the Justices appointed a committee to visit the place where it was proposed the bridge should be built; and Mr. Cunningham of Craigends, Mr. M'Dowall, the Sheriff-Depute, Mr. Milliken of Milliken, Mr. Porterfield of Porterfield, and Mr. Alexander of Newton, reported to another meeting of Justices "that they had visited the place where the bridge is proposed to be built; that it was their opinion the building of the said bridge would be of general advantage both to the town of Paisley and the country adjacent; and that no damage would thereby be done either to the navigation of the river, or to the ford. Whereupon the Justices unanimously authorised the petitioners to build and erect the bridge, conform to plan thereof." The Magistrates and Council were dissatisfied with this

¹ "Rivers were crossed at fords, where the ordinary assistants were women. By an easy adjustment of their garments, they waded across the streams, bearing the men upon their shoulders. In reference to this practice James VI. rejoiced to inform his English courtiers that he had, in his native kingdom, a town of five hundred bridges. The king facetiously alluded to the small town of Auchterarder, on the Earn, of which all the females were ford-women."—*Social Life in Scotland*, by Dr. Rogers., vol. i., p. 219.

decision of the Justices, and presented a bill of suspension to the Court of Session, in which they repeated their declinature of the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace, and also stated the following objections, viz., that the erection of the bridge would be hurtful to the common good of the burgh—1st, by depriving them of the toll in use to be uplifted at the old bridge, to avoid which passengers would go by the new bridge; 2nd, that it would be equally hurtful to the duty exigible upon the pint of ale brought into the town from the Smithhills, as, by opening a new passage over the river, it would furnish an opportunity to the brewers from that quarter to smuggle their ale into the town without payment of the duty, and that their stationing a collector for levying this duty at the new bridge would be attended with double expense; that one of the purposes specified in the Act of Parliament imposing said duty upon the pint of ale was for making the river navigable, in doing of which they had already expended considerable sums; and that the building of this bridge would stop the navigation between the old and new bridges.

On 21st February, 1759, the inhabitants of the Sneddon lodged a memorial in answer to the objections stated by the Town Council; and the court, having sustained the jurisdiction of the Justices, a bridge consisting of two arches was erected at the Sneddon ford in 1760, leaving passages on each side of the river for access to the ford. The inhabitants of the Sneddon were either unfortunate in the employment of their architect or contractor, or they failed to provide in the specification of the work for sufficient piling to support the side walls, as subscriptions were raised in 1792 for taking down and rebuilding the bridge, in consequence of the insufficiency of the work.¹ At this time, the strong animosity manifested by the Town Council thirty years previously against this bridge had ceased to exist, for, on 20th June in that year, they “agreed to subscribe £50 towards rebuilding the Sneddon bridge by subscription.” The bridge was accordingly taken down, and a new one, consisting of one arch, with a roadway twenty-six feet in width, was erected in 1792, leaving passages as formerly to the river. On 15th November, 1793, the “Council found that the subscriptions for Sneddon bridge, with the interest thereon, will be deficient for rebuilding the same, agreed that on condition the gentlemen of the county will advance £40 stg. towards rebuilding said bridge out of the toll duties, that the Council will advance the like sum, to be applied for the same purpose.” Two years afterwards, those having charge of erecting the bridge “reported to the Council that, over and besides the contributions, there is still a deficiency of £150; and the Council agreed to pay £50 over and above their former contributions, providing that the gentlemen of the county pay the balance out of their public

¹ On 5th March and 6th August, 1793, contractors were advertised for in the *Glasgow Mercury* to take down and rebuild the bridge, with one arch of seventy-five feet.

funds" (*Council Records*, 22nd July, 1795.) This debt must have been disposed of in this way, for no further allusion is made to it in the Council minutes, and there is no record to show the cost of re-erecting this bridge.

The Abbey, or, as it was more frequently called, the Saucel Bridge, was erected in 1763. The great extension of the town, in New Street, Orchard Street, and adjoining streets on the west side of Cart, along with the formation of streets and building of houses on the east side of the river, rendered this bridge necessary for the accommodation of the inhabitants. It consisted of three arches, and the width of the roadway, including the two parapet walls, was only fourteen feet. The minutes of the Town Council are silent regarding the building of this bridge, and there are, so far as we know, no other records relating to it. It is very probable that it was erected at the expense of the Earl of Abercorn, for the use of his numerous feuars in the Newtown, which he had formed on the lands surrounding the Abbey.

Criminals convicted of breaking the laws of the country were much more severely punished in those days than at the present time, and executions were more frequent throughout the country. At Paisley there were several executions in this period. On 12th and 13th November, 1753, Robert Lyle, who resided in the parish of Kilbarchan, was tried at Paisley before the sheriff and a jury, for the crime of housebreaking and theft, aggravated by his being by habit and repute a thief. The following was the finding of the jury:—"The jury unanimously finds the said Robert Lyle, pannel, guilty, art and part, of the crymes charged against him in the indictment, respecting the goods stolen from off the bleachfield and yard of James King, in Causeyend of Stanely, and also of the goods stolen furth of the dwelling-house of William Wilson, in Meiklebog; and also finds the *mala fama* charged against the said panel in the indictment proven; but does not find the rest of the crymes charged in the indictment against the panel, Robert Lyle, proven."

This verdict was only for the theft of some articles which were of little value, aggravated by the panel being by habit and repute a thief. The charges of housebreaking were not proven. The jury gave their verdict on the 13th November, and he was sent back to prison till the 20th November, when he was brought up for judgment, and sentenced as follows:—"The Sheriff, in respect of the verdict of assize returned against Robert Lyle, pannel, on 13th November instant, decerns and adjudges the said Robert Lyle to be taken to the common place of execution at Gallowgreen of Paisley, upon the 27th day of December next to come, and there, betwixt the hours of ten of the clock forenoon and three in the afternoon, to be hanged by the neck until he be dead; and ordains his whole moveable goods to be confiscated, and hereby confiscates the same, to His Majesty, and remands him back to the Tollbooth of Paisley until that time" (*Hector's Judicial Records of Renfrewshire*, vol. i., p. 248).

Robert Lyle, who was an old man at this time, was accordingly executed on the Gallowgreen, where a great concourse of people had assembled. The sentence was generally considered too severe, even at that time, and caused a great sensation in the district.

On 7th November, 1765, Alexander Provan was executed on the Gallowgreen for murdering his wife. This cruel murder was discovered, it is alleged, in a strange manner. Some persons called on him, and, taking a bottle from under a bed, to treat them to some whisky, he poured out blood into the glass instead. A noise immediately arose. The Rev. Mr. Morrison, of the Low Church passing at the time, went into the house to have some conversation with Provan, and did not leave till the poor man was arrested and taken to the prison. He was afterwards tried, and sentenced to be hanged, after having his right hand cut off by the wrist. His hand at the place of execution was fastened to a stake driven into the ground, and the rope about his neck fastened to it. The hangman being agitated, struck the hand at the wrong place, and, on Provan crying, "Cut and pull, cut and pull," he was thrown off.

Another tradition is that the hangman, through trepidation, severed his hand by the palm, instead of the wrist, and Provan, with a shriek, cried, "The tow, the tow, the tow." The rope was immediately brought, and a termination put to his sufferings. The axe used was long kept as a relic, and shown as Provan's axe to those curious in these matters.

The next and last execution in this century was that of Thomas Potts, on 17th August, 1797. On Sabbath evening, 19th March, 1797, between the hours of eleven and twelve o'clock, William Oak, weaver, Johnstone; Thomas Potts, weaver, Williamsburgh, Paisley; and William Pullans and George Aitchison, weavers, Irvine, all Irishmen, broke into the house of John Barr, farmer, Gryffe Castle, parish of Houston, armed with bludgeons, large knives, cutlasses or swords. The female servant was the first to get up, and she proved herself a heroine on the occasion. The ruffians brandished their weapons over the heads of the inmates, threatening to take the life of Barr; and, with horrid oaths and imprecations, demanded money and the keys of the repositories. They robbed the house of £11 in notes, £1 in silver, and some silver spoons. The spoil was carried to Oak's house, and divided among the robbers. Potts had been previously charged with other crimes; and the large knife with which he was armed at the robbery was discovered concealed in a barrel on his premises.¹ Potts and Aitchison were both appre-

¹ At the Circuit Court, Glasgow, in April, 1792, Roger M'Ghie and Thomas Potts, weavers, in Sandholes of Paisley, natives of Ireland, were accused of the crime of hamesucken, or the felonious entering the dwelling-house of Allan Cochran, farmer at Ferguslie; that on the evening between nine and ten o'clock, in November last, they forcibly entered the dwelling-house of Mr. Cochran, having their faces blackened, napkins tied round their heads, and wearing their shirts outermost; and with large sticks did beat and wound, to the effusion of their blood, Mr. Cochran and his wife, who, with the aid of the house dog and by their own exertions, beat off the assailants. The Jury, by a majority of voices, found the libel not proven, whereupon they were immediately dismissed from the bar.

hended, but Aitchison escaped from Irvine jail. Billy Oak and Billy Pullans both absconded, and a reward of £10 was offered for the apprehension of each of them. Aitchison was again apprehended, and became a witness for the Crown. Both Oak and Potts were indicted to stand their trial before the High Court of Justiciary, at Edinburgh on 12th July, 1797. Oak was outlawed for not appearing, and Potts pled not guilty. The other Crown witnesses were John Barr and his wife Janet M'Lellan, and their servants, Jean Donaldson, James Rowan, and Joseph Lang. The exculpatory witnesses, whose testimony was merely on character, were John Brown, John Meikle's wife, Thomas Cochran, and Doctor Robinson. The jury found Potts guilty, and he was sentenced to be hanged at Paisley, on Thursday, 17th August, 1797. When in Edinburgh jail, while under sentence of death, he wrote a letter to his wife; another, on 15th July, to his father and mother; another on 14th July; afterwards, two long letters to his wife; and on the 16th August, a letter to a friend.¹ He states, in one of his letters, that "George Aitchison had a very well made-up story to take away my life, although he sent me a line before my trial, saying he could do me no harm but a great deal of good." In one of his letters to his wife, he gives eight reasons "why he finds his life accompanied with very great mercies." They may be thus abridged:—1st, All mankind are born to die, and the difference is not great whether soon or late. 2nd, It appears very shocking that I cannot live any longer than the 17th day of August, but consider how many thousands of people will be dead before that time. 3rd, Sentence of death, whether natural or violent, is pronounced by the mouth of God; our only great concern is how to be prepared for it. 4th, If I had lived, I might have turned desperately wicked, and perhaps have turned wholly from God, and died in an entire state of sin. 5th, That if my death be violent, was not that of my blessed Saviour so, too? and did not the apostles and martyrs finish their lives by the hands of executioners? 6th, I have great reason to hope that, as God punishes me here, He has reserved no punishment for me hereafter. 7th, I am perfectly sure that if I cast myself on God's mercy, He will accept of me just as well as if I had died in my bed. 8th, I trust in the merits of Jesus Christ, that He has freed me from all these future torments by His peace-speaking blood.

The scaffold and gibbet for the execution were put up at the Cross of Paisley. Two iron batts were fixed in the Cross steeple, and remained there till the steeple was taken down. The projecting gibbet stretched out from the south-east corner of the steeple, so that the crowd in High Street, Moss Street, and the Cross, could readily see the execution. The scaffold was erected within a few feet of the strong cell in the steeple, where Potts was confined.

¹ These letters, consisting of 15 pages, 12mo., were printed by J. Neilson, in that year, in pamphlet form.

Potts was thirty-five years of age; and in his last letter to his friend the night before the execution (already noticed), he stated—"I declare, as a dying man, that I have not been guilty of either murder or robbery, or any thing of that sort." While confined in Paisley jail—that is, from the 7th till the 17th of August—he was attended by all the clergymen in the town; and at his own request, was accompanied to the scaffold by the Rev. William Ferrier, of the Associate Congregation, Oakshaw.

The Council had considerable difficulty in obtaining payment of the expenses—amounting to £33 5s. 1½d.—they incurred in connection with the execution of Potts (*Council Records*, 5th December, 1798). As the crime was committed in the county, and not within the burgh, they naturally applied to the Commissioners of Supply; but being refused, they resolved to memorialise the Lords of Justiciary thereanent.¹ On 20th November, in the following year, these expenses being still unpaid, they agreed "to petition the Lord-Advocate to order the Crown Agent to pay the expenses, and pursue the Commissioners of Supply therefor in case of refusal." The Council probably received payment from some party, as the matter is not again referred to in the Council records.

Another way in which convicted criminals were severely, and indeed often cruelly punished, was by being whipped in the streets.

¹ These expenses, given in detail, were as follows:—16th August, 1797—

To William Pattison, for Wright work—		Brought forward, £11 12 1	
Going to Glasgow for information,	£0 2 0	John Orr, for Dinner—	
Robert Fleming carting deals,	0 1 4	Dinner,	£4 0 0
My own lads putting up the scaffold,	1 1 10	Port,	3 0 0
Six labourers assisting,	0 10 6	Sherry,	1 12 0
My lads taking down the scaffold,	0 10 0	Negus,	0 4 0
Drink and sundries,	0 4 0	Punch,	1 4 0
A large table,	1 15 0	Toddy,	0 13 4
A crane,	1 10 0	Brandy,	0 3 4
A coffin,	0 7 0	Gin,	0 2 8
Masons putting in bolts,	0 3 0	Whisky,	0 2 0
Ropes,	0 5 5	Porter and Beer,	0 12 6
Hunter and Walkinshaw for wood, 62 planks,	11 10 7	Officers,	0 17 0
James Duncan, for iron work for gallows,	2 6 1	Punch,	0 8 0
John Motherwell, for nails,	0 9 7	Gin,	0 1 4
	£20 15 4	Rum,	0 2 8
		Whisky,	0 2 0
		Porter and Beer,	0 4 0
Cash received for the planks, after execution,	9 3 3		13 8 10
		James Bain, a chaise hire, for execution,	1 7 6
		Paid making dead clothes,	0 13 0
		Paid executioner and assistants,	4 4 0
		John Currie, for entertainment to hangman and assistants,	1 14 3
		Hemp rope,	0 5 5½
Carried forward,	£11 12 1		£33 5 1½

The crimes so punished were frequently of no great moment, and this makes the mode of punishment all the more revolting to us. Such sights indeed must have been most demoralising in their effects on the inhabitants. Convicted females, too, had to suffer the same brutal treatment.

In 1765, James Moody, innkeeper in Smithhills, Paisley, was summoned before the Sheriff Court at Paisley by Robert Ewing, in Auchingraith, for a debt of £8, due by a bill. Moody denied that he owed more than £4, and alleged that the bill had been fraudulently obtained from him when intoxicated. Proof was taken, and to get rid of what was clearly a just debt, Moody bribed several persons to give false evidence for him. To one witness he gave ten shillings, and promised more if he succeeded in his suit; and to another he promised the use, free of hire, of a horse. He thus committed "the crime, subornation of perjury, aggravated by being habit-and-repute a suborner of witnesses," and was tried at Paisley on the 25th March of that year, before the Sheriff and a jury, at the instance of James Wilson, Procurator-Fiscal of Court. The jury, after a lengthened trial, "found the panel guilty of the crime of subornation of perjury charged against him in the criminal letters; but found the last part of the said criminal letters, respecting the pannel's being habit-and-repute a suborner of witnesses, not proven." The sentence by Sheriff M'Dowall was that he should be "carried to the Tollbooth of Paisley, and remain therein till the second Thursday of May next to come; to have his body then stripped naked to the middle, and his hands tied behind his back, and to be then carried with a rope round his neck furth of the said Tollbooth, betwixt the hours of ten in the forenoon and two afternoon, and so to be led by the common hangman from the prison of Paisley to the Townhead of said burgh, and there to receive on his naked back twenty-five lashes from the common hangman; from thence to be carried down to the head of New Street, and there to receive on his naked back twenty-five lashes more by the hands of the said common hangman; from thence to be carried to the foot of New Street, and there to receive twenty-five more lashes by the hands of the said common hangman; and from thence to be carried down the Causeyside Street, and up St. Mirin's Wynd, to the Cross of Paisley, and there to receive twenty-five more lashes on his naked back by the hands of the common hangman; and thereafter ordain the said panel to be carried back to the said Tollbooth of Paisley, and detained therein for the space of five months from and after the said day; and, after expiry of said space, decerns and adjudges the said James Moody, panel, to perpetual banishment furth of the said shire of Renfrew, and never again to return thereto; ordains him to be carried to the confines of this shire by the officer of this court, and then to be turned out of it, with certification that, if he return to the said shire, he shall be immediately apprehended and imprisoned in the foresaid Tollbooth of Paisley for the space of five

months, and whipped by the hands of the common hangman as formerly, through the town of Paisley, the first Thursday after he shall be so apprehended ; and ordains him to be so whipped accordingly, and thereafter confined in prison for the space of six months ; and ordains this like punishment in all and every part to be inflicted upon the panel so often as he shall return to the said shire and be found therein. And which is pronounced for doom."

The punishment in the case of Peter Bishop, hosier in Paisley, in the following year, was somewhat milder. At his trial, on 19th December, 1766, the jury, after a long trial, found him "guilty of stealing or resetting ten bobbins, one spindle of thread, and four of thread," and Sheriff M'Dowall sentenced him "to lye in the prison of Paisley till Thursday, the 29th day of January, 1767, and in the forenoon of that day to be delivered over to the officers of court, who are to cause the said Peter Bishop, at twelve o'clock at noon on said day, to be carried through the streets of the town of Paisley bareheaded, his hands tyed behind his back, and a rope round his neck, with part of the goods stolen or resetted by him, the hangman holding the ends of the rope, and a drum beating ; and thereafter to be carried back to the prison of Paisley ; and decerns and adjudges the said panel to be thereafter banished and transported to any one of His Majesty's coloneys or plantations in America for the space of fourteen years, and to remain in the said Tollbooth of Paisley until an opportunity offer for his transportation ; with certification that if the said panel shall return from transportation within the foresaid term of fourteen years, that he shall be apprehended and imprisoned within the Tollbooth of Paisley for the space of six months, and whipt by the hands of the common hangman through the town of Paisley, receiving twenty lashes on his naked back at each of five different stations, and thereafter to be carried back to the said Tollbooth of Paisley, and continue therein until the said six months shall be expired ; and thereafter until an opportunity offers for his being re-transported."

The following case of Jean Montgomery is one of the most inhuman that could be met with. On 23rd February, 1770, Jean Montgomery, wife of John Storie, weaver in Paisley, was tried before a jury, who, "by a plurality of voices, find the panel guilty of resetting the piece of plain lawn mentioned in the libel, knowing it to be stolen, but that the value thereof is under ten shillings stg. ; and unanimously find proven that the panel has for several years been habit-and-repute a resetter of stolen goods, and an enticer of children and servants to steal from their parents and masters." The sentence of the Sheriff was, "that she should be carried back to the Tollbooth of Paisley, and to remain therein to the second Thursday of April next ; to have her body then stripped naked to the middle and her hands tyed behind her back, and to be then carried furth of the said Tollbooth, betwixt the hours of ten in the forenoon and two in the afternoon, and so to be led by the common hangman, and receive on the naked back ten lashes at the head of

New Street, at the foot of New Street, and at the Cross, by the hands of the said common hangman;¹ and thereafter ordains the said Jean Montgomery, panel, to perpetual banishment furth of the said shire of Renfrew, and never again to return thereto; ordains her to be carried to the confines of this shire by the officers of Court, and then to be turned out, with certification that, if she return to the said shire, she shall be immediately apprehended and imprisoned in the foresaid Tollbooth of Paisley for the space of one month, and whipped by the hands of the common hangman, as formerly, through the town of Paisley, upon the first Thursday after the expiration of the said space of one month after she shall be so apprehended; and ordains her to be so whipped accordingly, and thereafter to be confined in prison for one month longer; and ordains the like punishment in all and every part to be inflicted on the panel so often as she shall return to the said shire and be found therein. And which is pronounced for doom."²

It is thus little more than a century since the streets of Paisley were disgraced by such atrocious proceedings; and yet it was by the law of the country, and apparently in accordance also with the feelings of jurymen, that a married woman should be punished in this brutal manner.

The stealing of silk from the manufacturers by their servants prevailed to a considerable extent. A small quantity of it, although of considerable value, could be easily concealed, and detection therefore was very difficult. The administration of the law against those who bought, or rather resented, this silk from the thief was particularly severe. On 9th August, 1781, John Craig, late "changekeeper" at Quarreltown, was tried before the Sheriff-Depute and a jury for stealing or resetting stolen silk, aggravated with the circumstance of being habit-and-repute. After a tedious trial, the jury found him guilty, and the Sheriff sentenced him to be recommitted to prison till 6th September next, and then to be brought forth to the pillory, there to stand for a full hour, with a label on his breast having these words, written in large characters, "Infamous Resetter of Stolen Silk," and the day following to be

¹ A difficulty arose in carrying the sentence into execution from the want of a "whippie," none being nearer than Ayr or Stirling. An application was made to the "Paisley Society for the Reformation of Manners" for funds to engage a "whippie," and they allowed three guineas toward the same (*Records of that Society*).

² "The jury were not unanimous in finding the panel guilty of reset as libelled, but they unanimously found her guilty of being habit-and-repute a resetter, although there was no previous conviction or proof of any such crime put before them. It does, however, appear from the evidence that some of her neighbours had a bad opinion of her, and on their hearsay and most unsatisfactory evidence, she was held to be guilty of being 'a reputed resetter and enticer of children and servants to steal.' What is really proved is her having had in her possession a cut of a piece of lawn that had been stolen; but this was found at the foot of a stair by a constable, who swore that it had been dropped there by the panel" (*Judicial Records of Renfrewshire, by W. Hector, vol. i., p. 254*).

perpetually banished the county of Renfrew. Three years afterwards, there was a case somewhat similar. On 10th June, 1784, John Burd, Paisley, was charged with having resettled twenty bobbins of silk. He solicited an apprentice to embezzle the silk from his master, for the purpose of making silk stockings with it. The Magistrate sentenced Burd to stand on the Tollbooth stairhead for one hour bareheaded, with three silk bobbins round his neck, and a label on his breast bearing "For Reset of Stolen Silk," and afterwards banished the town and liberties for three years.

It was on this same stairhead of the Tollbooth that Alexander Wilson, poet and ornithologist, and one of our most illustrious townsmen, had, by a sentence of the Sheriff, to burn on the 6th February, 1793, at eleven o'clock forenoon, before the public, one of his own poetical effusions. To aid the weavers of Paisley in a dispute between them and the manufacturers, he wrote a satire, entitled, "The Shark, or Lang Mills Detected." If he had stopped there, little harm would have been done; but in an evil hour he sent in manuscript to the gentleman against whom it was written a copy of the poem, with an offer to suppress it if paid five guineas. This subjected him to a prosecution before the Sheriff, which resulted in his punishment as already mentioned.

The Councillors who were chosen to fill the important office of treasurer did not record their money transactions in a book, to be transmitted from one treasurer to another, but only apparently on loose sheets of paper, which, after being examined and docqueted by the committee of Council appointed for that purpose, were generally retained by them. For this reason, the receipts and disbursements of the Council cannot be regularly given prior to 1800. The following certified copy of the income and expenditure of the Council for 1753 will therefore be found to be somewhat interesting:—

STATE OF THE TOWN'S REVENUES, 1753.

Dr. Town of Paisley.

To interests of	£500	stg.	due	Wm. M'Dowall, ...	£22	10	0
"	"	1000	0 0	James Milliken, ...	47	10	0
"	"	230	0 0	Messrs. Shields, ...	11	10	0
"	"	140	0 0	James Storie, mer ^t ,	7	0	0
"	"	120	0 0	Heirs of J ^s . Gibb,	6	0	0
"	"	80	0 0	Rob ^t . Fulton, mer ^t ,	4	0	0
"	"	254	0 0	New Bank of Glasgow,	12	14	0
"	"	100	0 0	John Smith, mer ^t ,	5	0	0
"	"	30	17 6	Robert Menzies, ...	1	10	10½
"	"	1333	6 8	Owing upon the Es- tate of Ferguslie,	66	13	4
<hr/>					<hr/>		
	£3788	4	2	Carried forward,	£184	8	2½

<i>Brought forward,</i>	£184	8	2½
To Peter Scott, Minister, his stipend and house rent,	65	11	1⅔
„ The salary payable to Mr. Ballingall, Master of the Grammar School, and his house rent, ...	19	13	4
„ The salary payable to James Porter, of the English School,	5	11	1⅓
„ The salary payable to the Master of the English School,	1	13	4
„ The salary payable to the town's Master of Works,	7	0	0
„ The salary payable to the Clerk, Treasurer, and Fiscal,	1	17	6
„ The salary payable to the three Magistrates, ...	6	13	4
„ The salary payable to Gavin Skeoch, for keeping the town's clocks,	3	0	0
„ Salary payable to 6 pensioners in the Hospital,	19	17	9⅔
„ Salary payable to W ^m Gordon, town drummer, ...	5	0	0
„ Teind payable by the town to the two Abbey Ministers in Abbey Church,	3	13	4
„ The Lords contribution money, payable to the Earl of Dundonald,	0	17	9⅓
„ The yearly cess of the town's lands,	12	10	6¾
„ „ „ of Ferguslie lands,	1	10	2
„ The feu-duty of the lands of do.,	2	2	9
„ A boll multure bear, do., to the Seedhill Miln,	0	15	0
„ Communion elements at the Sacrament,	4	18	1
„ Payment of the Edinburgh newspapers for the town's use,	1	6	0
„ The clothing of 4 town officers,	6	2	4
„ By examining the town's accompt of incidental charges for this last year, 1752, it appears that the Treasurer's disbursements for small accounts, such as candles, coals, tradesmen's accompts, and other incident and occasional expenses by the Magistrates, and as these expenses seem to be daily growing, the sum appears to be moderate <i>communibus annis</i> ,	80	12	9
„ Upon examining the Master of Work's accompts for the last four years, it appears that upon an average the town's annual expenses for making and maintaining their streets, keeping their lands and inclosures in due repair, amount to,	33	3	3¾

£467 17 10

<i>Contra.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>
By Interest due to the town from sundry bonds and bills,	£12 7 2
„ Interest from the sales of part of the estate of Ferguslie, not paid up,	75 2 5
„ Interest from the sales of the lands of Sneddon, sold and not paid up,	75 17 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
„ Rents of houses and shops belonging to the town,	56 4 4
„ Rents of the seats in the church, viz., in the Abbey and town church,	37 19 5
„ The rent of the coal pit,	1 0 0
„ The rent of the meal and flesh market,	27 12 0
„ The town's customs,	20 0 6
„ The rents of the town's lands, exclusive of Fergusly lands,	40 0 4 $\frac{1}{3}$
„ The rents of the lands of Fergusly,	76 12 8
„ Feu-duties payable to the town out of their sundry lands,	41 16 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ By balance,	3 4 9 $\frac{5}{8}$
	<hr/>
	£467 17 9 $\frac{1}{3}$

That the above is a true and fair state of the burgh of Paisley their annual revenues and disbursements, extracted from the records and accompts of the said burgh, kept by me, Town-Clerk of the said burgh, is attested at Paisley, the fourteenth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three years, by

(Signed) THO. SIMPSON, *Clk.*

In 1770, when the Glasgow Town Council applied to Parliament for an act to improve the river Clyde, they attempted at the same time to increase the dues on goods in vessels going up and down the river Cart. The Council, believing that if this power were obtained, it would be injurious to the town, acted in a very spirited manner, and, without hesitation, resolved “to oppose said application, so far as the same may be prejudicial to the community, and appointed a committee to conduct said opposition, and to draw on the Treasurer for the expenses necessary thereto” (*Council Records*, 26th January, 1770). The Glasgow Town Council must have abandoned their proposal to apply for the increasing of these dues; at least, the subject is not again alluded to.

The Council in every way manifested their anxiety to have the navigation of the river improved, but the great barrier in the way was the want of funds. On 21st August, 1763, they agreed to purchase and fit up a crane at the quay. The Glasgow Town Council, by their operations in the improvement of the navigation of the Clyde, and the building of stone jetties at the mouth of the Cart, caused a raised bank to be formed, and had thereby rendered the water at that part “considerably shallower than it was formerly, and

had in a great measure hurt and obstructed the passage of vessels on the Cart." A representation and complaint regarding this injury was made to the Corporation of Glasgow, who caused their overseer of the river to examine the mouth of Inchinnan water, and to report as to its condition. He did so, and reported "that there would be a necessity of erecting three jetties on each side of the river Cart, which would undoubtedly remove any sand or mud that has settled in that part of the water," and stated that the expense of forming these jetties would amount to £139 6s., or thereby. The Council ultimately accepted £150 from the Glasgow Council in full of all claims, to enable them to follow out their own plan of deepening the mouth of the Cart and restoring it to its ancient state (*Council Records*, 10th April, 1784). The Council afterwards gave £5 5s. to Mr. Bennet, overseer on the Clyde, "for his pains and trouble in drawing plans of the river Cart and suggesting a method how the mouth of the river could be cleaned so as not to hurt the property of Mr. Campbell of Blythswood ;" and the balance of the money received was to form no part of the town's revenue, but to be applied to the purposes for which it was obtained (*Council Records*, 6th August, 1784).

The first serious movement that was made by the Council for the improvement of the navigation of the river was on 29th November, 1786, when the Magistrates laid before them "a plan and profile of the river Cart, from Paisley to its junction with the Clyde below Inchinnan, drawn by Mr. Robert Whitworth," along with an estimate of the expense that it will take to deepen the river. "The Council having deliberated on the affair, they approved of deepening the river, and following out every preparatory step for that purpose ; and for that end appointed the present Magistrates, together with Messrs. Charles Maxwell, Andrew Brown, James Wilson, John Cochran, and Andrew Smith, as a committee." Mr. Whitworth's recommendations, contained in his report of 23rd November, 1786, were mainly to form a canal, so as to avoid the shallow water at Inchinnan Bridge, and the bridge itself, and to construct a drawbridge twenty-four feet wide over this canal, on the line of the road leading from Glasgow to Greenock. Several low stone jetties were also to be raised in the wide part of the river below Knock Ford and below the lower end of the proposed canal, at different parts of the river. He stated in his report that "the method of deepening the shallow parts of the river must be by dragging in the manner that was done upon the Clyde ; or by ballasting, that is, by cutting up the bed of the river with a ballast machine and taking it into a barge. The last is the method I have practised upon the river Thames for many years with great success. These machines will cut up the hardest gravel, clay, &c." Mr. Whitworth also recommended a towing-path to be formed. His "estimate of the expense of improving the navigation of the river Cart from Paisley to the river Clyde, by deepening the bed of it, so as to obtain seven feet depth of water in an ordinary spring tide, as

represented upon the profile, and making a new cut and drawbridge to pass Inchinnan Bridge and the shoals below," was as follows:— Digging 8200 cubic yards in making proposed cut, at $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per yard, £85 8s. 4d.; digging or ballasting, or both, of 7700 yards below low water mark, including the digging the foundation of the drawbridge, at 6d. per yard, £192 10s. 0d.; five acres of land for said cut and bank, at £20 per acre, £100; about 4 roods of rubble masonry, to secure upper end of cut, at £5 per rood, £20; making a drawbridge, the side walls of which to stand on an inverted arch, £470; ballasting to cut out the shoals to the depth of the line G.H.I.R. in the profile, 25,000 tons, exclusive of the rock at R. and the stoney ground at S., at 4d. per ton, £416 13s. 4d.; cutting the rock at R. and large stones at S., £100; jettees, 300 yards, at 8s. per running yard, £120; forming a foot towing-path on east side of the river, 4 feet wide, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, at 2d. per yard running, £51 6s. 8d.; two acres of land for towing-path, £40; ballast-barges and machines, ropes, tackle, wheel-barrows, planks, &c., 20 per cent. upon the whole, £305 3s. 8d.; in all, the moderate sum of £1901 2s. 0d.

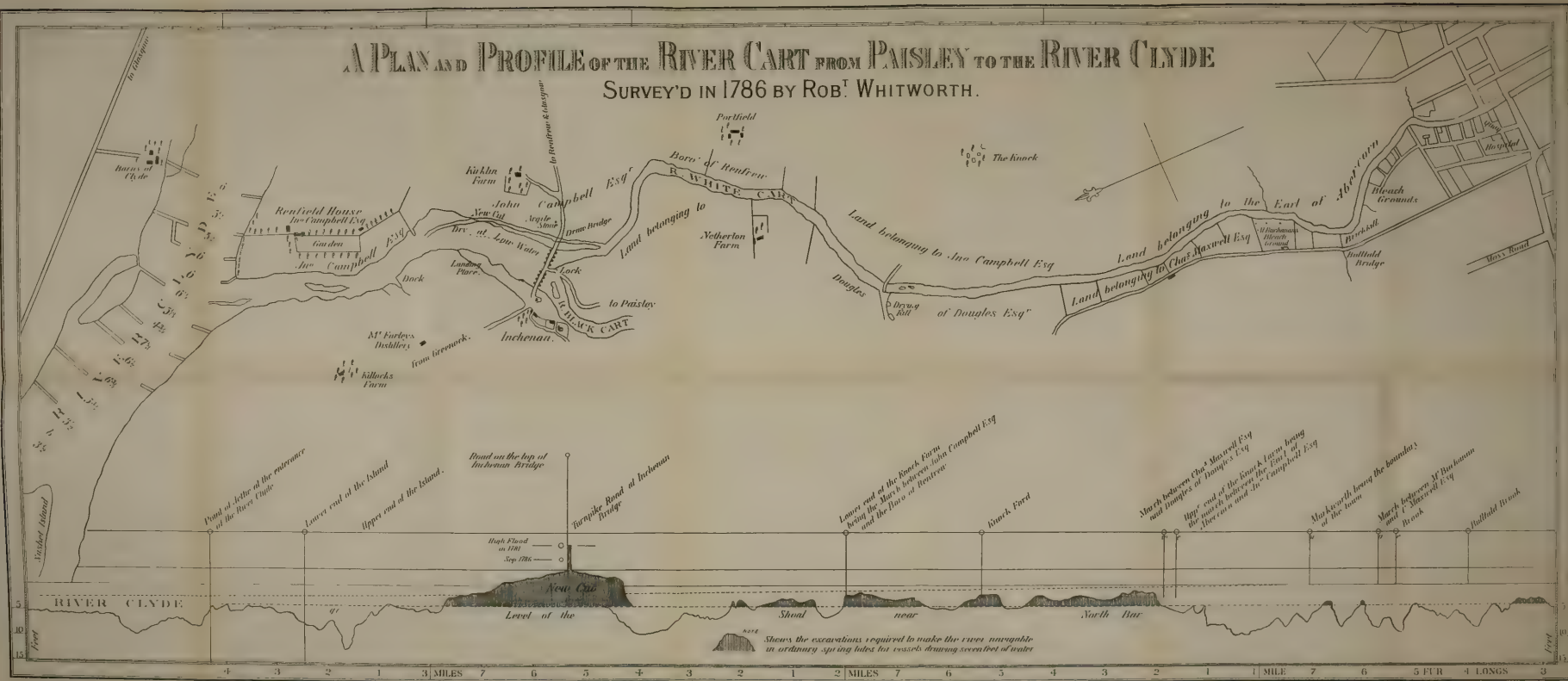
The plan supplied by Mr. Whitworth is a complete view of the Cart from Paisley to the river Clyde, along with a longitudinal section and several cross sections of the river. It is highly interesting, and as it gives the first exact and full view of the river Cart and its banks, we give a copy of it.

On the 22nd December following, the Council agreed "that the river shall be deepened by a tonnage laid on vessels and goods navigating the river, but that such shall not exceed tonnage up to Glasgow." A bill to Parliament was prepared and approved of, and submitted to the Lord-Advocate (*Council Records, 5th January, 1787.*) On 7th February following, the Council signed a petition to the House of Commons for leave to bring in a bill into Parliament for deepening the river, "and to transmit the same, along with a copy of the bill, to Mr. Seton, their solicitor." He was also desired to "lay the whole before Lord Abercorn for his advice, and if his Lordship shall signify that he will be against the bill, then he is not to present the petition to the House of Commons." On 13th March following, "the Council voted Bailie Carlile to go to London to support the bill." The Act was accordingly obtained; and on the 8th June in that year, "the Council unanimously agreed to and voted their thanks to the Earl of Abercorn, John James Hamilton, the Lord Advocate of Scotland, and John Shaw Stewart (the County Member), for their friendship and zeal in supporting the bill in Parliament." The Act, as stated in the title, was for "enabling the Magistrates and Town Council of Paisley to improve the navigation of the river Cart, and to make a navigable cut or canal across the turnpike road leading from Glasgow to Greenock;" and the preamble states that the river Cart "is at present navigable only for small boats in floods or spring tides, and even then with much difficulty." The Council were empowered by the Act "to



A PLAN AND PROFILE OF THE RIVER CART FROM PAISLEY TO THE RIVER CLYDE

SURVEY'D IN 1786 BY ROB^t WHITWORTH.



make and keep the river navigable in ordinary spring tides for vessels drawing seven feet of water," and to "erect on both sides of the said river such and so many jettées, banks, walls, sluices, works and fences for making, securing, keeping, and maintaining the channel of the said river within proper bounds; to build wharfs and quays, and to form the canal already mentioned seven feet deep, fifty-four wide at the top, and twenty-four wide at the bottom," and to construct a drawbridge over it. The Council were empowered to borrow money to the extent of £3000 for executing these works, and to levy an impost of eightpence per ton on merchandise and fivepence per ton on coal carried on the river. Goods carried no further than the Knock Ford were to be charged the half of these dues; and manure, lime, and marl for lands within five miles of the river to be exempted.

On 26th of this month, the Council appointed a committee, whom they called the Water Committee, "for conducting the cleaning and deepening of the river; but before making any contracts of consequence, they were to take the minds of the Council. On the 17th August following, the committee, after advertising for contractors, laid before the Council two offers to cut the canal, and the preference was given to the one given in by Charles Hopkins. This necessary and important contract, we learn afterwards, cost £458 2s. 2d. At the same meeting, the committee reported that "Mr. Douglas, of Mains, had appointed Mr. Haiston, of Jordanhill, as his arbiter, to value the damage done by digging the canal through Col. Campbell's lands, and for towing path, &c." The Council were dissatisfied with the choice made by Mr. Douglas, and named Mr. Robert Corse on their part. On 15th September thereafter, the Council "agreed to employ Alex. Bissland, wright, Paisley, to build and make the draw arch, both mason and timber work, over the intended canal at Inchinan bridge, agreeable to a proposal and offer made by him." The price of this bridge amounted to £410. The Council thus showed great energy and zeal in making the two principal contracts within three months after obtaining the Act of Parliament. At the same meeting, the Council agreed to employ Mr. Bennet to build a jetty in Inchinnan water, agreeably to a plan prepared by Mr. Whitworth. In entering into these contracts, money was required; and the Council, on 18th October, agreed "to take out a cash account from the Paisley Bank for £1000;" and on 14th January, 1788, the Magistrates reported that they had agreed with John M'Kechie, Greenock, to build two vessels or ballast barges. On 16th August, in that year, the Council agreed with a person "to attend to the draw-bridge till about the new year, and to give him one shilling per day for his trouble." On 3rd November in this year, a letter from Mr. Whitworth was laid before the Council, pointing out the method of improving the foot of the canal towards Colin's Island, and they authorised the committee "to see the same put in execution as soon as the season will permit." On 22nd April, 1789, the committee agreed "to cut the river from

the foot of the canal to Colin's Isle, and appoint an undertaker, the same to be advertised for in the *Glasgow Mercury and Journal*." At the same meeting, they agreed "to erect a lodge to collect the tonnage on the north end of Mr. Carswell's house, on the quay, of seven feet long and four feet wide, or thereby." And likewise "to build a breast at the slate quay, of four feet high above the level of the water, and about fifty feet long, to lay sand and other things on." Efforts were frequently made to remove the rock in the river at Merksworth by blasting, but not with much success. On 22nd July, 1793, the committee reported that they had entered into an agreement with John Henderson to make the cut at Merksworth, on the side of the river, 52 feet wide and six feet deep. By another agreement with the same contractor, the canal, as it was called, was to be 9½ feet deep. It would appear that the arbiters, for some reason which is not explained, had not fixed the price of the land taken from Mr. Campbell of Blythwood, in connection with the formation of the canal at Inchinnan; for the Council, on 17th November, 1798, "made offer to him of £40 stg. per acre for such lands as have been taken of him into the navigation." They objected, however, to pay any damages. It is likely the offer was accepted, for the matter is not referred to again. A proposal was brought before the Council, on 25th January, 1799, regarding the "great advantage to the navigation of the river Cart, to have a cut, at the nearest possible distance, from the great canal to the river Clyde, as nearly opposite the mouth of the river Cart as may be." Nothing was done with this proposal at that time, but it will be seen that such an undertaking was, many years afterwards, successfully carried out.

The following is a yearly statement of the revenue received from tonnage dues on the river, from the passing of the Act of Parliament till the end of the century:—

1788,	...	£152	0	0	1794,	...	£172	0	0
1789,	...	151	0	0	1795,	...	149	0	0
1790,	...	150	0	0	1796,	...	152	0	0
1791,	...	154	0	0	1797,	...	165	0	0
1792,	...	150	0	0	1798,	...	222	0	0
1793,	...	135	12	3	1799,	...	118	1	7

The money expended on the different river works under the Act of Parliament, including the cost of the Act itself, down to the end of the century, was £3,804 12s. 3d. This does not include any interest.

In the winter of 1784-85, the rivers Clyde, Cart, and other tributary streams, were frozen during four months; and it was not till the middle of March that the ice broke up. In London, the frost lasted for five months and twenty-four days—in all, 176 days—the longest continuance of frost in Britain upon record. The frost in 1739-40 continued 103 days.

In the erection of such a great number of houses in all parts of the town, as the rapid increase of population implies, building materials were, of course, in extensive demand. The stones were principally obtained from Gallow-green, the Craigs of Ferguslie, Newtown, Brediland, Thrushcraig, and Nitshill. The limestone for mortar was also brought from various places in the neighbourhood of the town. A little to the south-east of Stanely Castle there was a lime work, called Stanely Lime Craig (*W. Semple's History*, p. 264). In the lands of Brediland there was a good lime work, at which were two seams of limestone about two feet apart, and each seam about two feet thick. John Parkhill, in his autobiography, published under the *nom de plume* of "Arthur Sneddon," states that his father, about 1790, became the manager of this lime work, which was situated a little eastwards from the head of the Chain Road.¹ His father then lived at Bankfoot, a house a little east from the Chain Bridge.² To the east of Blackhall, on the lands of Mavisbank, there was a lime work, and the machinery for working the pumping apparatus for removing the water from the quarry was propelled by a windmill (*W. Semple's History*, p. 273). In 1795, lime was sold at 10s. per chalders of 16 bolls, the boll containing from four to five Winchester bushels of slacked lime (*Wilson's View of Renfrewshire*, p. 273).

The practice of pasturing the cows belonging to the burgesses upon the common lands of the burgh, and the tending of them by two herds, as already explained (1596), continued through the whole of the seventeenth century, and down to the time we are at present concerned with. These common lands were now, however, from the demand for dwelling-houses, being built upon and enclosed, and thereby this ancient custom came to be altogether stopped.

The two herds employed by the Council carried a large horn, which they blew when collecting the cows in the morning, and likewise to let the owners know when they were bringing them in again at the close of the day. These horns were also used by the herds for the purpose of collecting a portion of the town's customs or causey tax. In addition to the salary and perquisites which the herds received from the Town Council and owners of the cows, they were empowered to lift and retain the butter or sour milk custom, which was the full of this horn of sour milk, for every load that was brought into town by the farmers who lived outside the burgh boundary. The horn was assumed to hold a Scotch pint, and very frequently the herd got a half-penny instead of this milk, as that was the price at which the stipulated quantity was sold. Latterly the town herds had, besides, for their trouble, 1s. per annum from

¹ This name has arisen from the fact that a chain was at one time placed across the foot of this road where it joins the road from Paisley to Johnstone.

² "The whole of the hill, from the head of Maxwellton Brae to the West Toll, was at this time covered with bramble and hazel bushes, hence our house was named Bankfoot" (*Autobiography of Arthur Sneddon*, p. 15).

each owner of the cows; and from the Town Council, £5 stg. of fee and money to purchase a plaid, and £3 to purchase a bull, which at the end of the season he was allowed to sell for his own behoof. The charge made by the Council was then 3s. for the pasturage of each cow. When this practice of pasturing the burgesses cows was stopped, and the town herds were not required, the Council continued to levy a half-penny of custom on every cart of sour milk brought into the town. Some of the farmers objected to this; and in 1785, Mr. John Lock, Crookston, and Mr. John Fleming, Hillhead, refused to pay this charge upon the butter-milk, on the ground that the town's herds never had it in their power to exact any milk, or money in lieu of it, alleging that when they did get any, it was at the option of the farmers. They accordingly raised an action in the Court of Session, which was embraced in the one regarding the custom charged upon potatoes, to be afterwards referred to. The judge allowed a proof, and a great many witnesses were examined on both sides. It appears from the evidence led, that for some time after the beginning of the eighteenth century, the milk was brought into the town by the farmers, "either in one or two kirns, which were upon a car, or in one or two barrels, which were placed upon a horse's back;"¹ and the hornful of milk was exacted by the herd wherever he found the milk upon the street; and at this time "the sour milk was sold to the inhabitants in luggies, three of which made a lucky Scots pint; and the price of each luggyfull was two pennies Scots,"² or two-twelfths of a penny sterling. As in their claim to be exempted from paying the custom-duty on potatoes, they failed in this one also.

About 1740, the culture of potatoes was commenced in the vicinity of Paisley, on an extensive scale, by one John Marshall, who came from Kilsyth about that time, and took up his residence in Renfrew. Previous to this, however, they were reared in gardens in Paisley and its neighbourhood; and persons who cultivated more than they required brought them to the Cross of Paisley for sale. The Council then began to charge one penny of custom, or "causey tax," for each bag of potatoes so exposed. Although the tax was not objected to at first, it was so after a time; and in 1785, two farmers, John Lock and John Fleming, already referred to, raised an action in the Court of Session to have it declared that the Council were not entitled to levy custom upon potatoes, and alleging that they had a right by their charters only to the "ancient customs and tolls of the burgh." The pursuers challenged at the same time the tax upon milk, butter, meal, and fresh fish. Moreover, with regard to the tax upon potatoes, they undertook that it had not been in operation for forty years, which prevented the right of prescription. There were altogether twenty-one witnesses examined in this action. They spoke of the time when the culture

¹ Evidence—Law action.

² *Ibidem*.

of the potato was commenced in this district, and when they were first brought into Paisley for sale; that potatoes at first were brought "into the town only in pecks and half-pecks, for private use, as people wanted them;" that "the quantities exposed at the Cross at one time did not amount to above two pecks, and in the course of the whole year did not exceed a boll." Another witness, Mr. John King, who was seventy-four years of age, "remembered that, about forty-eight years since, he saw potatoes exposed for sale at the Cross of Paisley; and about that time he himself brought potatoes to the Cross for sale, and he continued this practice now and then for several years. The potatoes which he brought into the town at first were raised by him in a yard at a place called 'The Hole,' and the second and subsequent years he raised potatoes in other places at 'The Hole' aforesaid in lazy beds; and this was the manner in which they were then cultivated, being then a scarce article in the country; that the first year he planted six pecks of potatoes in the yard, which contained about a rood of ground, and he brought three or four bags to market; and the greatest quantity which he brought in any one of these years was, he thinks, six bags; that the potatoes were not plentiful in the neighbourhood of Paisley; and at the time above-mentioned the places from which they were brought to the town were Stanely Green, Drumonyhall, and 'The Hole,' all in the Abbey Parish of Paisley; and from the first two places they came in much the same quantities as from his own place, 'The Hole,' and Renfrew and its neighbourhood first sent in potatoes to the market of Paisley in any considerable quantities, though potatoes were brought from other places in lesser quantities; and that at the time first-mentioned he knew that potatoes were brought to Paisley in boats from Kintyre." On 5th December, 1789, the Court, after upwards of four years' litigation, assoilzied the Town Council from the conclusions of the libel of declarator, and found the pursuers liable in expenses. But, in consequence of the delay that arose in adjusting the expenses, the case was not finally settled till two years after this time.

Before the middle of the century there were, besides numerous private gardens attached to dwelling-houses, many public gardens and orchards; and the inhabitants were therefore well supplied with every kind of vegetable and fruit. They were situated in different parts of the town; and before the end of the century there were no less than eighteen gardens (*W. Semple's History*, p. 331). For two hours every forenoon, vegetables were exposed for sale at the market cross, outside, but on a line with the "plain stanes," and the "kail wives," as they were termed, who sold them, were for the most part protected from inclement weather by small tents, generally painted red.

Although the calling of the packman or chapman may be said to be now extinct in Scotland, yet it is known to have existed for many centuries. They are referred to in the poem of "The Three

Tales of the Three Priests of Peebles," written during the reign of James III. Sir James Semple of Belltrees, in his once-popular poem of "The Packman's Paternoster," published in 1669, makes the itinerant merchant have a long discussion with a priest in relation to the abuses of the Romish religion. The most prosperous period of the chapman was between the first quarter of the last century and the end of the first decade in the current century. Packmen travelled regularly throughout the country, and also exposed their wares at the fairs in the different towns. Some of them carried their goods in carts, others on horseback,—the goods, in bales, being hung on each side of the horse; and many travelled on foot, with immense packs on their backs. They carried almost every description of goods, including Paisley muslins, lawns, and ribbons. They were, besides, welcome visitors in the country districts, for they were newsmongers, and were generally hospitably entertained by those they visited. Those of them who were persevering and energetic, and had a good address, were almost all prosperous, becoming ultimately merchants with shops of their own. Numerous stories are told about pedlars rising to eminence in their business, but this was not the case with poor Alexander Wilson, the gifted Paisley poet, who wrote the poem of "The Pack," "Apollo and the Pedlar," "The Loss of the Pack," "Epistle to a Brother Pedlar," "The Insulted Pedlar," and his prose "Journal as a Pedlar." John Brown, Professor of Divinity in the Secession Church, and author of the "Commentary on the Sacred Scriptures," "The Biblical Dictionary," and many other learned works, carried a pack in his youth.

The leading industry continued to be the weaving of cloth of different kinds; and the successful introduction of the manufacture of silk gauze, about 1760, gave a great impetus to the trade and the prosperity of the town. To Mr. Humphrey Fulton belongs the honour of introducing this manufacture into Scotland. In company with his two sons, he carried on a most extensive business, and often employed in Paisley and the surrounding villages from 400 to 600 looms in the various branches of manufacture, and gave daily bread to 1000 and frequently 1500 people (*Weavers' Magazine*, vol. 1, p. 45). He was born at Midtown of Threapwood, in the parish of Beith, on 17th April, 1713 (*J. Paterson's History of County of Ayr*, vol. 1, p. 265). When a young man, he was a packman; and after travelling extensively both in Scotland and England, he first commenced the manufacture of linen and lawn goods in Beith. In 1749 he removed to Paisley, and conducted the same business till he commenced the silk manufacture. He died on 27th May, 1779, leaving two sons, one of whom bought the Hartfield and the other the Park estates. The goods made in Paisley, and exposed for sale in the London market, were soon found to be of very superior quality; and they were so moderately priced, that one or two manufacturing firms were induced to leave London and

open establishments in Paisley. Their success was so great, that other firms followed; and the trade increased to such an extent, that manufacturers of these goods soon had warehouses in London, Dublin, and other important towns. Some of them had shops even in Paris for the disposal of the goods they produced with so much skill and taste. Spitalfields, which had hitherto been the seat of the manufacture, was in a measure superseded by Paisley. In 1766, a list of the looms in Paisley was taken, and found to be as follows:—Linen, 855 looms; silk, 702 looms; thick work, 45 looms; network, 165 looms—in all, 1767 looms (*W. Semple's History*, p. 324). Seven years afterwards, when a list of the looms was again taken, they were found to be as follows:—Silk looms, 876; ribbon looms, 155; linen or lawn, 557; thick goods, 66; and empty looms, 579—in all, 2233 looms. At this period, or soon after, a large number of looms was employed throughout the county. The extent of the manufactures of Paisley can best be judged by comparing the number just given with the total number of looms, including those in the neighbouring villages, at subsequent dates, which may be stated thus:—

	1776.	1781.
Silk looms,	2500	4800
Linen or lawn,	1500	2000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total,	4000	6800

“In 1780 there were eighteen manufacturing firms in Paisley, six of which belonged to London, and kept stocks in their warehouses there; and eight of the other twelve had also warehouses in London” (*W. Semple's History*, p. 323).

In 1791-2, when the silk manufacture had declined, and muslin had taken the foremost place, there were fewer looms engaged in the towns and villages of our county. Within Renfrewshire alone there were:—

In Paisley and suburbs,	3602 looms.
In the parish of Eastwood,	470 „
In the parish of Kilbarchan,	417 „
In the parish of Lochwinnoch,	135 „
In the parish of Neilston,	152 „
And in the other parishes in the county,	256 „
	<hr/>
Total,	5032 „

(*Statistical Account*, 1793.)

State of the Silk Gauze for 1784.

(W. Carlile, in the *Scots Magazine*, vol. 49, p. 324, No. for July, 1787.)

Number of weavers employed, not under ...	5000
Winders, warpers, clippers, drawboys, and others necessary in the various parts of the silk manufacture,	5000
	<hr/>
E	10,000

Suppose these 10,000 workers at an average to
 earn 5s. per week, the sum paid for wages
 will be £130,000
 Every silk loom produces in value yearly, upon
 an average, £70, the amount is 350,000

The Value of Paisley Manufactures for 1784.

Silk gauzes,	£350,000	0	0
Lawns and thread gauze,	164,385	16	6
Thread,	64,800	0	0
<hr/>			
	£579,185	16	6

The Number of People Employed.

Lawn branch—Weavers,	2400
Spinners,	7384
Winders, warpers, clippers, &c.,	1000
Overseers,	100
Makers of machinery and implements,	800
Thread spinners, winders, bleachers, twiners, &c.,	4800
Silk weavers,	5000
Winders, warpers, clippers, &c.,	5000
<hr/>	
Total employed,	26,484

The other goods manufactured in Paisley, such as plain, striped, spotted, and figured lawns, bordered handkerchiefs, plain and figured gauze, along with other fabrics, were distinguished by great taste and superior workmanship. In the home and foreign markets the various goods thus manufactured in Paisley came to be in great demand, and the foundations of extensive businesses were laid. The subjoined reports of the Stampmasters to the Board of Trustees for Fisheries, at different periods, will show the progress of these branches of trade :—

		Yards.		Value.
1744,	... ..	353,407	...	£15,886
1748,	... ..	413,660	...	23,671
1750,	... ..	567,805	...	41,710
1760,	... ..	812,328	...	54,442
1770,	... ..	632,834	...	64,547
1780,	... ..	1,492,973	...	93,347
1784,	... ..	1,922,020	...	164,385
1791,	... ..	—	...	82,009
1793,	... ..	—	...	58,749

The following from the pen of Mr. William M'Gavin (who lived in Paisley about twenty years), regarding the weaving trade in the town about 1789, is trustworthy and highly interesting :—

“About this time silk-weaving was going out of fashion, and that of muslin was taking its place, which made a great change in the circumstances, and eventually in the state and character of the in-

habitants. The silk manufacture was engrossed by a few great capitalists, who could set at defiance all rivalry by poorer men. They were not under the necessity of competing with one another to force the sale of goods by underselling and running the prices down to the lowest rate. The weavers' hours of labour were moderate, yet they were so well paid that they could dress like gentlemen, and many of them bought houses with their savings. The raw material of the silk weaving was brought from foreign parts, and sold for cash at the India House ; but cotton yarn was spun at home in immense quantities, and could be had in sufficient abundance by any man who could command five pounds of money, or had credit to that amount. Thus hundreds became manufacturers of muslin who could never have produced a web of silk. The market became overstocked with goods. Those who had got their yarn on credit were obliged to sell at an undervalue, or at whatever they got, in order to pay their bills. Then the prices of weaving were reduced to the lowest possible rate. Men were required to work longer hours to make a living, which increased the evil by bringing forward an extra quantity of goods" (*The Posthumous Works of William M^r Gavin*, vol. i., p. 16).

We take the following from the *Glasgow Mercury* newspaper, of 22nd November, 1791 :—"A few months ago, Mr. Andrew Wright, of Paisley, wove a web of silk, spun from worms of his own rearing. This, we are told, is the first web of the kind made in Britain. Mr. Wright is decidedly of opinion that this climate is extremely favourable to the rearing of the silkworm, and that the only obstacle to its becoming a valuable branch of trade is the scarcity of mulberry trees. A few plantations of such trees would in time remove this obstacle."

When light lawn cloth was made, many bleachfields came into operation in the town and surrounding districts. The streams whose banks were favoured as sites for these were the Candren and the Espedair, to the south and south-west of the town. The water in these rivulets was pure, and was considered the most suitable for the washing and purifying of that cloth. There were about a dozen of these bleachfields in full operation at this time. In addition to these, there were eight bleachfields on the river Cart, between the Sneddon and the Saucel, for the bleaching of thread.

The next important branch of industry in Paisley was the manufacture of thread, which greatly increased, and gave employment to many people. The different kinds of threads made at this time in Paisley were—Nuns, or ounce thread ; Lisle, or dozen thread ; Lash thread, used for heddles ; flourishing cotton, for embroidery ; India cotton, for flowering ; and wave thread. In 1784, the number of machines employed in twining thread was about 120. Each machine, upon an average, twined about 2400 spindles, making the total quantity, 288,000 ; which, at the estimated value of 4s. 6d.

each spindle, gives for the total value of thread made annually, £64,800 (William Carlile, in the *Scots Magazine*, vol. xlix., p. 294, No. for June, 1787). Mr. M'Gavin's remarks on this trade also will be found very instructive :—

“ With the view of going into business, I spent a few months with Mr. Walker and my brother, to make myself acquainted with the trade of threadmaking. This I found a very pleasant business. I had a variety of active employment, with perfect freedom from anxiety of mind. I then set up a small concern in the thread line, which I intended to pursue for the remainder of my life. It had been at one time the staple trade of Paisley. Many families had been supported, and some enriched by it ; but the tide was turning by this time, and it was about to be superseded by an article made of cotton upon another principle. After two years, I found it necessary to abandon it, which I did, with considerable loss. This brought me into debt, though happily I suffered no embarrassment, and did not even require to make the fact known to the public. My worthy friend Mr. Walker paid all my engagements, and took my bill for the amount, trusting to my integrity and future industry for payment, which I effected, with interest, in about three years ” (*Posthumous Works of William M'Gavin*, vol. i., p. 27).

Mr. Macdowall, M.P. for the County, must have looked after the weaving industries of the town very carefully, for on 20th August, 1784, “ The Magistrates and Council unanimously voted thanks to William Macdowall, Esq., Member for the County, for the attention he paid to the manufacturing interests in this place, by obtaining an exemption of the lawns and gauzes, of linen or namedst, figured or sprigged with cotton, from the tax proposed. And likewise for his cordial union with other members in obtaining the proposed duty upon manufactured silks to be laid upon the raw materials ; and appointed the Magistrates to intimate this to Mr. Macdowall.”

When the prosperity of the town was thus increasing rapidly, the Town Council bought the property in High Street adjoining the Tollbooth ; and in 1751 they erected a public inn upon the site, which was first called the “ Town's House,” and afterwards “ The Saracen's Head Inn.” The building was three storeys high, and the entry to it, nine feet wide, was from High Street, and had a shop on each side. In 1759 the yearly rent was £36, and in 1761, £40. On 6th August, 1784, the Council agreed “ to repair Andrew Drew's shop, and to set it for a coffee-room along with the Town's Inn.” This was the eastmost shop, which was changed into a coffee or reading room, most likely because the news-room, already referred to, was found to be greatly deficient in accommodation. The reading-room appears to have been always kept open on Sundays. At anyrate, it was so in 1789 ; for on the 1st May in that year we find “ the Council are of opinion that Mr. Sinclair must shut up

the Coffee Room on Sabbaths during the time of divine worship, and till it be four o'clock in the afternoon." In January, 1791, the Council agreed to add to the inn, at the back, an assembly-hall, with bedrooms above, and cellarage, along with a building for stabling and hay-loft. In March, 1794, the inn was let at £130 of yearly rent. The accommodation in the Town's House at this time, according to a notice advertising it to be let, consisted of "a large coffee-room, a large ball-room, six large parlours, twelve bedrooms; besides a garret, a very convenient kitchen, with a sufficiency of cellars and offices, an excellent stable that will contain 20 horses, likewise a hay-loft." Mr. Sloan, the tenant at this time, changed the name to the "Saracen's Head Inn," and fixed up on the front in High Street a signboard, with a portrait on it representing a savage-looking Saracen holding a scimitar in one of his hands. The year ending Whitsunday, 1798, was the last year of the coffee-room in the Town's House,—the annual subscription at that time being 16s., and the number of subscribers 169. The following newspapers were then received into the reading-room:—London—*Sun* (two copies), *Star* (two copies), *Courier* (two copies), *Morning Chronicle* (two copies); *Oracle* (Dublin), a daily paper; Edinburgh—*Caledonian Mercury*, *Advertiser*, *Scots Chronicle*; Glasgow—*Advertiser*, *Courier* (two copies), *Monthly Review*, and *British Critic*. Insufficient accommodation in this reading-room caused the subscribers to raise a fund of £800, in 160 shares of £5 each, with which they bought a shop at the Cross in Moss Street, with a flat above, which was made suitable for a reading-room.

Another of the ancient landmarks of the town was ordered to be removed, as being no longer required in its altered circumstances. On 8th December, 1763, the Council resolved "that the Bridge Port be taken down, as useless, and obstructing the view betwixt the town and Smithhills." In the same minute it is, however, further stated that this was done "at the request of Dundonald."

The Council, in consequence of the great prosperity of the town and increase in the population, agreed to carry out further improvements for the benefit of the inhabitants. Hence the erection of a new flesh-market and slaughter-house (*Council Records*, 18th Feb., 1764). The site they selected for this public building was "their own steading in Moss Row," and they purchased a tenement adjoining, along with "a steading in Litsars' Wynd" (Dyers' Wynd). On 2nd April following, a plan of the new flesh-market and slaughter-house, "along with an elevation drawing by Bailie John Whyte, was submitted to the Council and approved of." The new market fronted Moss Street. A contemporary says it "is seventy-two feet long, has a genteel front of cut stone, and is one of the neatest and most commodious of the kind in Britain. It cost the community £1200 stg." (*Pennant's Tour in Scotland*, vol. ii., p. 16). The shambles were immediately behind the market, and the entry

to them was from Dyers' Wynd. The following account of the number of cattle, &c., killed in this market at different periods, will serve to give an idea of the consumption of butcher-meat in the town:—

From September to September,	Oxen and Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Hogs.	Goats.
1781 - 1782, ...	2193	2724	3318	3219	80	87 ¹
1791 - 1792, ...	2633	2412	2081	2978	138	5
1792 - 1793, ...	2682	2220	1806	2158	87	1
1793 - 1794, ...	2488	2100	1594	2564	73	1
Average of these three years, }	2601	2244	1827	2567	99	2 ²

This does not include what may have been killed outside the burgh boundary.

The previous flesh-market was on the opposite side of the same street; and, after the erection of the new market, was converted into the tron and custom booth, where butter, cheese, fish, and several other articles were sold by the tron pound of 22½ ounces. Above this custom booth was the assembly hall, which was repaired in 1771, and let for a dancing school (*W. Semple's History*, p. 318).

The Council continued to have four officers and a drummer. One of the officers, through old age, became unable to perform his duties; and in 1765 the Council adopted a most unusual, but at the same time a very economical, method of assisting him. On 4th April of that year, when removed from his situation, the Council agreed that, "on account of his long and faithful services, they hereby burden the four town officers with the payment by each of them of £1 stg. yearly to the said W^m. Stewart during his life, and payable at the month of January in each year." The Council also agreed to pay him £2 yearly.

On 30th January, 1767, the Council, "on the application of some of the chief inhabitants of the city of Glasgow, agreed to contribute £40 towards the expense of building a new bridge betwixt the said city of Glasgow and the village of Gorbals," but on the condition that it shall "be a free and open bridge, without payment of pontage or any duty whatever." On 11th February, 1774, when the Glasgow Town Council were "about to apply to Parliament for an Act to augment or double the pontage on their new bridge," the Paisley Town Council agreed to join the gentlemen in the county in opposing such an Act being granted, and to subscribe money in proportion to the valuation of the cess.

¹ The value of the cows was £5 each; the calves, 4s. each; the sheep, 8s. each; the lambs, 4s. each; the hogs, 15s. each; and the goats, 3s. each;—in whole, £2588 17s. stg. (*W. Semple's History*, p. 318).

² John Wilson of Hurler—*General View of the Agriculture of Renfrewshire*.

When a bill was brought into Parliament in 1778 to repeal certain penalties and disabilities imposed on the Roman Catholics, a great sensation was created in Scotland, under the fear that it was for their complete emancipation and restoration to power. This subject came under the consideration of the Council in consequence of "a petition from representatives of the Incorporations, setting forth that they and their constituents, being friends to the Protestant interest and firmly attached to the present Constitution, are apprehensive that an attempt will soon be made to obtain a repeal of the statutes against Popery in this country: they therefore intimate their unanimous resolution to assist and support the Magistrates and Council in taking such legal and constitutional steps as they shall judge necessary for preventing the same taking place" (*Council Records*, 30th December, 1778). There do not appear to have been any further manifestations in Paisley in this direction, but it was very different in many other towns.¹

The Kirk-Session of Paisley also objected strongly to this bill, and at a meeting held in January, 1779, expressed their disapprobation of it, "as equally contrary to religion and sound policy. Popery is in its very nature destructive of the best interests of mankind; its principles and tenets are in many instances directly contrary to the important doctrines of our holy religion; and its system of morals subversive of the foundations of all civil liberty. Nor can this design, if carried into execution, fail to alienate from Government the affections of many loyal subjects, who have always approved themselves zealous friends of the Revolution settlement and of the illustrious House of Hanover. Add to this that the proposed repeal appears to be unjust in itself, as calculated to deprive both the nation and Church of Scotland of privileges dearly purchased by our ancestors, and unalterably secured to us by the Claims of Right and Articles of Union solemnly ratified betwixt the two nations in 1707." The Abbey Session also, on 11th February, 1779, appointed proper persons "to collect the opinions of the inhabitants of the parish with regard to repealing of the penal statutes against Papists in Scotland; and after having heard the sentiments of each family apart, found the opinion of upwards of

¹ In Leith, on 31st January, 1779, a numerous mob assembled and burned a house to the ground, which, it was alleged, was being used as a chapel by the Roman Catholics. Next day, several other houses in Edinburgh in which Popish clergy resided were destroyed.

In Glasgow, a mob proceeded to a Popish chapel in High Street, and after expelling the congregation, destroyed a number of pictures representing the different saints hung around the altar. The populace also destroyed the shop of a man of the Roman Catholic persuasion; and when stopped by the military, they went to his house in the east end of the town, and burned it to the ground (*Chronicles of St. Mungo*, p. 261).

No place was more zealous in opposition to the Popish Bill of 1779 than Paisley. It was not without danger that a person durst venture to express himself even with indifference on the subject. At this period not a Papist was known in Paisley (*Wilson's View of Renfrewshire*, p. 260).

1000 heritors, heads of families, and a very numerous body of other inhabitants, to be against their repeal."

In 1781 the Protestant feeling in the town was very strong. The seventeen Societies, as a proof of their enthusiasm, collected £86, which they sent to Lord George Gordon to assist in payment of the expenses incurred in pleading the Protestant cause in London. Also, on 8th January, 1781, the Incorporations of Weavers, Tailors, Smiths, Gardeners, Shoemakers, Masons, Fleshers, Bakers, Maltmen, Old Journeymen Weavers, Princes Incorporation, Maxwellton, Sandholes, Croft Incorporations, at a meeting, resolved "that it is their opinion that the Protestant interest can never be secure so long as Popish priests, schoolmasters, and Jesuits are tolerated by law to propagate their anti-christian superstition within any part of these united kingdoms; that, though the petitions of the English Protestant associations were not attended with that success last session of Parliament which they deserved, yet the friends of the Protestant ought by no means to be discouraged, so as to give up the glorious cause of our Religion and Constitution; that the Right Honourable Lord George Gordon deserves all legal support and sympathy under his present distressing and critical confinement; that he was neither the author nor promoter of the late horrid riots; and that he will soon quit the horrid abode of a prison, and shine forth like the sun from behind a dark cloud with redoubled lustre" (*W. Semple's History*, p. 329).

The Masonic Lodges established in the town were the St. Mirin, on 9th May, 1749; the Renfrew County Kilwinning, on 23rd November, 1750; the St. James Paisley, in 1773; and the Paisley Royal Arch, which received a charter of constitution and erection from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, 18th March, 1777 (*W. Semple's History*, p. 330).

It is not known at what time the custom was originated by the Town Council of burgesses and others perambulating the boundaries of the burgh annually, on what was called Lonimer's Day. It is an ancient custom, not only in this burgh, but in many others in Scotland. The records of the Town Council, however, are silent regarding its establishment. As representing the community, they are the Superiors of all the land within the burgh; and it certainly is a proper thing that a day should be set apart for perambulating their property, to see that none of the ancient landmarks showing its boundaries have been removed or destroyed.

"It [Lonimer] is a pure Saxon word, though in the West it has been corrupted by elision into Lonymer or Lanymer, from Londe-demer and Lande-demer, a judger and determiner of land. Deem, and doom, and daim are all from the same verb, though in present use their oblique significations are considerably different. The word Land-deemer appears to have been indiscriminately applied either to the

officer on whom the duty of riding the marches devolved, or to the upright stone, tree, water, or whatever else served to denote a boundary. The word in its latter signification we find used and spelt "Landymere" in the famous controversy between George Abbot of Paisley and the burgh of Renfrew anent the marches of the regality of Paisley and those of that burgh, which was settled by arbitration in 1408.¹ The first account we have of holding this day is by William Semple, the historian of Renfrewshire in 1781, and is as follows :—

"All the new-elected Bailies, Treasurer, and Councillors, who never were elected into said offices before, with all the new-entered burgesses, annually, upon the second Tuesday of June, walk round the five-merk lands or royalty of Paisley, attended by the town officers and a great number of spectators ; which custom is called Landymers, or land marches. Within the town's marches are three wells, viz., Castlehead Well, Lone Well, and Craig's Well, where they are all stopped and washed at. While walking through the Moss, they pull a number of flowers, such as that soil produces ; and at the Duseing Brae, viz., at the north end of the Long Lone, where Paisley horse race starts,² they are stopped, not without both mirth and terror ; then two of the officers take the person highest in office first, and taking hold of his shoulders and legs, then with a swing return his posteriors with a velocity against said brae, which is called "douping ;" this being thrice repeated, the person is a free brother burgess. All the rest are served after the same manner. Generally, the first person so served assists for one in serving the next. When this ceremony is ended, then they walk, all in grand procession, attended by the Magistrates with officers, and drums beating before them,—being all ornamented with the foresaid flowers,—from the said brae to the Town House, and all dine together, each one at his own expense" (*W. Semple's History*, p. 311).

On 3rd October, 1791, "the Council enact that in future every person who enters burgess, and who dines with the Council at Head Courts or Lonimer's days, shall pay half-a-crown for his dinner and drink, and the like sum for his cautioner, if he be present."³

¹ *Paisley Advertiser*, 28th June, 1828. The learned author is no doubt William Motherwell, who was the editor of the newspaper at that time.

² Duseing Brae, here described, is on the site of the cottage called Springbank, at the east end of the Shambles Road, recently named Springbank Road, on the west side of Love Street. Long Lone is now called Love Street.

³ Many of the burghs in Scotland preserve the practice of "riding the marches" with all the ceremony of former times. At Lanark, the celebration takes place on the last Wednesday of May, old style. A procession of boys is formed, headed by a band of music. The procession ends at the "ducking hole," on the border of the burgh lands, where those who have joined the diversions for the first time are compelled to wade in and touch a stone in the centre of the pond. They are tumbled over and drenched. The procession next marches to the plantations of Jerviswoode and Cleghorn, where the youths cut boughs from the

An attempt having been made by the Government to make the laws relating to the importation of grain more stringent, the Council were very zealous in co-operating with other public bodies in attempts to prevent the proposed change, and also in petitioning the legislature themselves. On 20th October, 1786, they appointed a committee to correspond with any public body in Glasgow and other neighbouring towns that agreed to oppose the proposed laws, "and that to the utmost of their power."

On 19th October, 1786, there was a contest between Mr. John Shaw-Stewart of Greenock and Mr. William Macdowall of Garthland, for the representation of the county in Parliament. On the day of voting, the former had 64 votes, and the latter 44 votes. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Stewart, the successful candidate, sent four hogs-heads of beer to the inhabitants of Paisley, as an acknowledgment for their peaceable behaviour at the late election, and £2 2s. to the Town House, which was divided among the poor prisoners. About the same time, Mr. Macdowall, the unsuccessful candidate, gave the Magistrates £10 10s., to be distributed among the poor (*Glasgow Mercury* newspaper).

In 1788, the inhabitants manifested their appreciation of the

birch trees, with which they proceed through the streets in boisterous triumph. They finally assemble at the Cross, where, under a statue reared to the memory of Wallace, they sing "Scots wha hae." The juvenile celebration terminates at noon. The Magistrates and Town Council now appear at the Cross, attended by the town drummer on horseback. A procession is formed, which, after inspecting the marches, enters the race ground. There, amidst demonstrations of merriment from the assembled multitude, a race is run for a pair of spurs. The proceedings terminate in a banquet in County Hall (*Scotland, Social and Domestic*, by Charles Rogers, p. 154).

At Linlithgow, the Sovereign's health is drunk at the Cross. When the glasses are drained off, they are tossed among the crowd. A procession is formed. The Members of the Corporation, seated in carriages, take the lead; then follow the Trades, bearing banners. The farm-servants of the neighbourhood, mounted, and displaying from their bonnets a profusion of ribands, bring up the rear. After a march of several miles, the procession returns to the Cross, whence the different bodies proceed to their favourite taverns, to dedicate the evening to social mirth (*Scotland, Social and Domestic*, by Charles Rogers, p. 154).

At Dumfries, every first of October, the Magistrates, Town Council, Incorporated Trades, and other burgesses, assembled at the Market Cross or White Lands, and having been duly marshalled, proceeded with banners and music along the far-stretching line which enclosed the property of the burgh. Their course was first to the Castle, then down Friars Vennel, and along the Green Sands to the Moat at the head of the town. As a matter of course, the cavalcade was accompanied by a crowd of juveniles, who at this stage were treated with a scramble for apples—the town officers throwing among them the tempting fruit. The marchers then passed through the grounds to the village of Stoop, at the race-course, near which a race was engaged in for a saddle and pair of spurs. They afterwards went to Kelton Well, where, after being refreshed with something stronger than the produce of the well, the roll of heritors was read over, and absentees were liable to be fined for not being present at the ceremony (*Macdowall's History of Dumfries*, p. 307).

benefits wrought by the Revolution of 1688 in a very demonstrative manner. On 4th November in that year, "the windows of the more wealthy part of the inhabitants were in the evening generally illuminated, and the utmost cheerfulness and happiness prevailed. On the thanksgiving day, the churches were crowded, and the audiences all appeared to be impressed with a just and becoming sense of the blessings of civil and religious liberty, which they enjoyed under a mild and just government to so much greater an extent than their forefathers before the accession of King William III. to the throne" (*Glasgow Mercury*).

On 11th May, 1790, the Council signed a petition to the House of Commons, and another to the House of Lords, "to oppose the bill depending relative to the Corn Laws from passing into a law, and to employ counsel in the matter." And authorised the Magistrates "to form resolutions on the subject, and publish the same in the London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow newspapers." On 18th July in the following year, they agreed to send to Mr. Macdowall, M.P. for the county of Renfrew, a letter of thanks for his great attention to the business of the Council in regard to the Corn Bill.

In the wars in which the Government were engaged from time to time, the Council and principal inhabitants, to strengthen the hands of the Government, and to testify their loyalty and sympathy, gave bounties to those inhabitants who volunteered to serve the country in the navy and army. In February, 1778, they offered a bounty of five guineas to every able-bodied man, residing in the town and Abbey parish, who shall, betwixt the first day of April next, voluntarily enlist in any of His Majesty's regiments of foot, from the first to the seventy-first inclusive, or in the marine service; and that over and above His Majesty's bounty. And on 27th July, 1779, they authorised the "Magistrates to offer, by advertising, a bounty, over and above His Majesty's bounty, or any other bounty, of four pounds for every able-bodied seaman, and two guineas for every ordinary seaman and landsman, resident in the town and Abbey parish." In August, 1781, the Renfrew County Kilwinning Lodge, from a desire to promote His Majesty's service, and from the esteem they had for Brother Captain William Walkinshaw, agreed to offer a bounty of one guinea to each man who should, betwixt and the 10th of September following, voluntarily enlist to serve in his independent company of foot, then being raised by him. This bounty was to be in addition to what was given by Captain Walkinshaw (*Glasgow Mercury*).

The Revolution, which commenced in France in 1789, had a most pernicious influence over many individuals of the working classes in this country. In several towns, the people after a time became inspired with revolutionary sentiments, and in 1792 disturbances broke forth in several parts of England. At Sheffield, a

day was appointed to rejoice over the success of the French revolutionary arms ; and there were outbreaks at Yarmouth and Shields. There were also riots at Dundee, Perth, and Aberdeen, and military aid was required to quell them. At Dundee, a meeting was held ostensibly regarding the high price of meal, but before it closed there were cries of "Liberty and Equality." Some even called out, "No Excise, no King," and they concluded with planting a Tree of Liberty, according to the pattern of France (*Life of Pitt*, by Stanhope, vol. ii., p. 175). A public meeting of the principal inhabitants of Paisley, called by the Magistrates, was held in the Court Hall, in December, 1792, to take into consideration the state of the country, and passed a series of resolutions. Those present declared their steady attachment to the principles of the British Constitution ; that any attempt to overturn or alter it proceeded from the secret enemies of the country, whom they held in abhorrence ; and resolved to give every assistance to Government in preserving the peace of the country. On 21st January, 1793, the head of the dethroned French king, after a mock trial, fell beneath the blow of the guillotine. And, on 1st February following, the overstrained peace relations between France and England were broken up altogether, by the former declaring war against this country and Holland. Then followed that long series of bloody and expensive hostilities in Europe, extending over a period of twenty-two years.

In some parts of Scotland the popular revolutionary feeling took a firm hold. A meeting of delegates from all parts of Scotland was held in Edinburgh, adopting, in imitation of the French, the name of a convention, and every member was styled "citizen." After they had continued their debates for about a month, the Provost of Edinburgh entered their room, with a suitable force, and ordered "Citizen President" to leave the chair. Skirving, their secretary, and Margorath and Gerald, were afterwards brought to trial ; and, being found guilty, were sentenced to be transported for fourteen years. These conventions or societies, which were held in several towns in Scotland, were, among other things, in favour of putting an end to waging war with their brother citizens in France.¹ In Paisley such a society existed, and issued a declaration, dated 12th March, 1793, which they published in the newspapers.

At this critical period the Government took precautionary measures of defence, by increasing the military forces of the country both by land and sea. A part of the militia were called out by royal proclamation. And on 1st April, 1793, a meeting of the Magistrates and principal inhabitants was held in the Court Hall, who, after considering the present honourable and necessary war in which Great Britain is engaged with the ruling powers of France, and considering that the steady manning of His Majesty's navy is of

¹ In January, 1793, the Rev. James Steven, Lochwinnoch, preached an able and powerful sermon in the Parish Church in favour of the British Constitution, which was afterwards published at the request of many of his parishioners.

great importance to this country, resolved to offer a bounty to the first hundred seamen or landsmen belonging to, or who have resided in, the county for six months, and who shall voluntarily enter with the regulating captain at Greenock before 1st May next :—Three guineas to each able-bodied seaman, and two guineas to every ordinary seaman or landsman (*Glasgow Mercury*). The money raised by the inhabitants to pay for these bounties amounted to £532 1s. A bill was brought in for restraining the export of arms and ammunition, and another for prohibiting the export of grain, on 22nd March, 1793. The Council of Paisley authorised the Magistrates to subscribe £50 to the fund towards the encouragement of seamen entering the navy, and also to call a meeting of the principal inhabitants to contribute to a subscription for the same purpose.¹

To assist the local civil powers in preserving peace, troops were quartered by orders of the Government in the large towns in different parts of the country. These soldiers also made every effort to secure recruits, who were so much wanted for the army and navy in connection with the war against France. A body of troops was sent by the Government to Paisley; and as there was no regular barracks to put them into, the Council agreed that they should be accommodated in "their large granary, now completely finished."² For the security of the country, the Government recommended that bodies of Volunteers, both infantry and cavalry, should be formed. Paisley at once responded to this call; and by the energy mainly of Mr. William M'Kerrell of Hillhouse, then a merchant in Paisley, this town "had the honour of raising the first Volunteer corps embodied in Scotland during the revolutionary war"³ (*History of*

¹ The Presbytery of Paisley, "having taken into their consideration the irreligion and inhumanity of the French nation," deemed it to be their duty in this eventful period to issue a printed address (dated 5th February, 1794) to the people under their charge.

² *Council Records*, 23rd May, 1794. This granary, as it was called, was situated, we believe, at what is now St. George's Place.

³ The M'Kerrells were an ancient family in Ayrshire. Sir John M'Kerrel distinguished himself at the celebrated battle of Otterburn, on 19th August, 1388. The first of the name in connection with the property of Hillhouse was William M'Kerrel, who at the beginning of the seventeenth century was Sheriff-Clerk of Ayr. He died in October, 1629. It is not known when a descendant of the M'Kerrells commenced business in Paisley and came to reside there, but it must have been about the middle of the seventeenth century; for "Jon M'Kerrell, broyer to Hilhous," was one of the witnesses to the important contract of 3rd May, 1658, already described, between Lord Cochran and the Master of Cochran and the Town Council of Paisley. In 1726, the freedom of the burgh was conferred on John M'Kerrel, Esq., and the following is a copy of the burgess ticket :— "Att Paisley, the twenty-eight day of March, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-six years.—The which day, John M'Kerrell, Esquier, for his good deeds done, and to be done, for the ability of the said Brugh, was by the Bailies and Councill thereof made and created a free Burges of the samen, and admitted to the whole privileges and immunities of the said Brugh as a free burges in all tym coming. Who made faith as use is, and thereupon asked instruments.—

Ayrshire, by James Paterson, vol. ii., p. 32). In July, 1794, the gentlemen of the county of Renfrew resolved to offer to Government to raise a corps of infantry, consisting of 400 men. The Town Council likewise entered heartily into the movement, and "unanimously agreed to make a present of a stand of colours to the Paisley Volunteers, with the town's arms thereon,—the expense whereof not to exceed twenty guineas" (*Council Records*, 10th September, 1794). On 25th October following, being the anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne, the Royal Volunteers marched to the Cross, where they gave four volleys, amidst the cheers of the numerous onlookers; and, on the fourth of the following month, the Magistrates presented their colours to them, and they were afterwards reviewed by William Macdowall, M.P., Lord-Lieutenant of the county. The Council also, in accordance with a bill pending in Parliament for raising a number of men in the several counties, burghs, and towns in Scotland, for the service of His Majesty's navy, "appointed a committee to agree with such able-bodied landsmen as can be procured, for supplying the town's quota imposed on them by the bill" (*Council Records*, 16th April, 1795). The Rev. John Findlay, of the High Church, acted as chaplain to the Volunteer corps, and they were so much pleased with his services, that they resolved, on 3rd March, 1795, to present the rev. gentleman with a token of the esteem in which they held him. The presentation consisted of "an elegant silver cup, with an ornamented compartment on each side, in one of which was argent, the colour of the corps in saltire, displayed with an imperial crown in chief; the thistle in base all proper." Motto—"To support the King and Constitution." There was a suitable inscription in the other compartment, expressive of the donors' esteem for their clergyman.

At this time great distress prevailed among the working classes in the country, from the dearth of provisions caused by bad harvests. Trade also was bad, and there was therefore great popular discontent. Parliament was opened on 29th October in this year; and when the King went down in state to deliver his opening speech, he was greeted with hootings and hisses; with cries of "Bread," "Peace," "No War," "No Famine," "No Pitt." "Down with George" was also heard from several voices. When the royal coach was opposite the Ordnance, a pebble or bullet, proceeding from what was supposed to be an air gun, broke a hole in the glass of the window (*Stanhope's Life of Pitt*, vol. ii., p. 353). Numerous addresses were afterwards sent to the King from all

Extracted by Ro. Wilson, Clk." The M'Kerrels afterwards conducted a large business in Paisley and London as manufacturers of gauze and muslins, along with their brother-in-law, James Kibble of Whiteford and Greenlaw, and their cousins the Fultons, under the firm of M'Kerrels & Kibble and Fultons & M'Kerrel. The reader is further referred to the *History of the Families of Ayrshire*, by Mr. James Paterson.

parts of the country, and the Town Council of Paisley “unanimously agreed to address His Majesty on the lucky escape from the late attack made on his person going to and coming from the House of Parliament” (*Council Records*, 6th November, 1795). This attack on the King was immediately followed by a royal proclamation, from which we extract the following:—“We, therefore, with the advice of our Privy Council, in pursuance of an address from our two Houses of Parliament, do hereby enjoin all Magistrates, and all other our loving subjects, to use their utmost endeavours to discover and cause to be apprehended the authors, actors, and abettors concerned in such outrages, in order that they may be dealt with according to law; and we do hereby promise that any person or persons, other than those actually concerned in doing any act by which our royal person was immediately endangered, who shall give information so as that any of the authors, actors, or abettors concerned in such outrage, as aforesaid, may be apprehended and brought to justice, shall receive a reward of one thousand pounds” (*William Hector's Judicial Records of Renfrewshire*, vol. i., p. 169).

Parliament, after carrying measures for alleviating the distress prevailing in the country, passed an Act, which was restricted to three years, against seditious meetings. Summary powers were given in it to Magistrates to disperse them by force, if necessary. On 30th November, 1795, the Council appointed a committee “to draw up a petition to the House of Commons to pass the bill respecting seditious meetings.” When the French Government were making preparations for war, near the end of 1796, Parliament agreed to increase the forces of the country, both by recruiting the regiments of the line and also by a supplementary body of militia. The number of men the Council had to provide was eighteen, and they appointed a committee “to enlist men for that purpose, and to draw on the Town Clerk for the necessary expense attending the same” (*Council Records*, 18th November, 1796).

The Volunteer Corps, as well as the Yeomanry Cavalry, were reviewed on several occasions about this time. On 25th November, 1795, the Volunteers were reviewed by Major-General Hamilton, who expressed his high approbation of their appearance and conduct. The weather was uncommonly fine, and the scene was, besides, much enlivened by the presence of four companies of the Renfrewshire Yeomanry Cavalry, who guarded the field. On 9th August in the following year, the Renfrewshire Yeomanry Cavalry were reviewed by Major-General Hamilton, in the presence of an immense number of spectators. The word of command was given by the Earl of Glasgow, colonel of the corps; and the men, consisting of eight companies of fifty each, went through their firings and evolutions with the greatest exactness, and received the thanks of the General in the warmest terms of commendation (*Glasgow Mercury*). In the beginning of the following year, when the Council wished more volunteers for the “internal defence of the community,

and to be managed under the 'Volunteer Act,' they agreed to call a meeting of the principal inhabitants of the town, to lay the measure before them" (*Council Records*, 23rd February, 1797). The result of this meeting is not recorded in any way; but as the inhabitants were animated with a strong patriotic and warlike disposition at this time, there is no doubt the wish of the Council was readily complied with. In the latter end of this year (1797), when the financial measures of Pitt were in committee in the House of Commons, it was suggested that an opportunity should be extended to those who wished to give free contributions in addition to their assessments. During January and February, 1798, Pitt availed himself of this proposal, and the sums received in this way were immense. Hustings were erected under the piazza of the Royal Exchange, London, and people of all ranks came forward and gave sums varying from £1 to £3000. The first day's subscriptions exceeded £46,000. Mr. Robert Peel (the father of the great Sir Robert Peel) subscribed £10,000, the City of London gave the same amount, and the Bank of England, £200,000. Upwards of two million pounds were subscribed throughout the country in this way. The Town Council of Paisley, inspired by a patriotic impulse, "agreed to give £300 as a voluntary subscription for the aid of the Government, and authorised Bailie Orr to sign for this sum along with the other inhabitants" (*Council Records*, 2nd March, 1798).

Enthusiastic public meetings were held throughout the entire kingdom for the purpose of promoting similar subscriptions to aid the Government. A meeting, convened by the Magistrates and Town Council of Paisley, was held on 3rd March, 1798,—John Orr, chief magistrate, presiding. The meeting was well attended, and unanimously resolved—" (1) That all the friends of their country ought in every time of danger to exert themselves for its protection and defence. To this they are called, not only by true patriotism, but by a regard to their own personal safety, their domestic comforts, and everything that is dear to the hearts of men. (2) That the danger which at present threatens our country is greatly alarming; when our powerful, resolute, and implacable enemies have insolently refused to propose or listen to any reasonable terms of peace, and have boldly declared their intention to invade our country, destroy our constitution, and to ruin our commerce, on which our prosperity depends; when, to accomplish this design, they are making the most formidable preparations, and to defray the expense have not only called for voluntary contributions, but have opened a loan for which the spoils of Britain are to be the special security. (3) That in these circumstances it is our interest, as well as our duty, to make the greatest exertions for our own defence, as the privileges we enjoy are inestimable, and as we have every reason to fear that, if our desperate enemies should succeed in their daring attempt, they will not only overturn our Government and annihilate our navy, but rob us of our religion, strip us of our property, ruin our trade, and reduce us to a state of the most abject

dependence. (4) That, as Government are carrying on most effectual measures for the preservation of our independence as a country and our safety as individuals, and as in present circumstances it is clearly the interest of the nation to raise as large a proportion of the supplies as possible within the year, the proposal of a voluntary subscription in aid of the fund to be raised by a new assessment is highly proper, and becoming the spirit of a wealthy and generous people, who wish to secure to themselves and posterity those inestimable privileges, civil and sacred, which they and their forefathers have so long enjoyed." A further resolution was passed for the appointment of a committee to carry out the objects of the meeting; and the following is a list, taken from the *Glasgow Courier* of the munificent subscriptions made by the inhabitants at that period in response to this able and eloquent appeal:—

The Town of Paisley,.....	£300	0	0	William Nevin,.....	£5	5	0
The Royal Paisley Volunteers,.....	1000	0	0	John Galbreath,.....	5	5	0
John Orr,.....	50	0	0	Andrew Leiper,.....	21	0	0
John Wilson & Co.,.....	105	0	0	Gerard & Smith,.....	42	0	0
John Wilson,.....	105	0	0	Thomas Stevenson,.....	5	5	0
William Stuart,.....	52	10	0	John Motherwell,.....	10	10	0
Thomas Bissland, jun.,....	52	10	0	John Peddie,.....	2	2	0
The Society of Merchants,...	105	0	0	Hugh M'Gregor,.....	1	0	0
The Paisley Banking Co.,...	500	0	0	Alexander Kerr,.....	1	1	0
James Hunter,.....	52	10	0	Lorrain Wilson & Son, ...	30	0	0
John Pollock,.....	26	5	0	Andrew Kerr,.....	3	0	0
William Orr, jun.,.....	50	0	0	George & James Christie,...	10	10	0
Alexander Macalister,.....	31	10	0	William Cochran,.....	1	1	0
Jamiesons & Robertson,...	63	10	0	John Warnock,.....	1	1	0
William Stuart,.....	50	0	0	William Aiken,.....	3	3	0
Thomas Whitehead,.....	30	0	0	Gavin Browning,.....	2	2	0
Brown, Sharps, & Co.,....	63	0	0	Nathaniel Gibson,.....	10	10	0
William King,.....	60	0	0	Peter M'Arthur,.....	2	2	0
Brown, Gourlay, & Co.,...	50	0	0	John Neilson,.....	3	3	0
Robert Ralston,.....	10	10	0	James Paterson,.....	5	5	0
James Dunlop & Co.,.....	100	0	0	James Campbell,.....	3	3	0
John Davidson,.....	10	10	0	William Twigg,.....	21	0	0
The Society of Writers,...	50	0	0	Archibald Maxwell,.....	5	5	0
John White,.....	10	10	0	Robert Maxwell,.....	10	10	0
Alexander Bissland,.....	10	10	0	John Graham,.....	21	0	0
Alexander Gibson,.....	10	10	0	Andrew Wright,.....	2	2	0
Robert Brown,.....	10	0	0	Andrew Leitch,.....	2	0	0
James Gardner,.....	1	1	0	James Finlaytor,.....	5	5	0
William M'Walter,.....	2	2	0	William Aberdeen,.....	5	0	0
Alexander Dunn,.....	1	1	0	Peter Wright,.....	2	2	0
Thomas Brown,.....	1	1	0	William Langmuir,.....	5	0	0
Robert Hunter,.....	52	10	0	Fulton M'Kerrel,.....	25	0	0
James Walkinshaw,.....	5	5	0	James Millingan,.....	5	5	0
James M'Walter, sen.,....	1	1	0	Archibald Livingston,....	2	2	0
James Paterson,.....	5	5	0	Walter Neilson,.....	2	10	0
Hugh Richmond,.....	2	2	0	John Galloway,.....	1	1	0
Archibald Gardner,.....	2	0	0	David Coats,.....	1	11	6
John Stirling,.....	4	0	0	David Gordon,.....	1	1	0
John Love,.....	21	0	0	Andrew Miller,.....	1	11	6
				Robert M'Kinlay, R. P. V., ¹	2	2	0

¹ These letters represent Royal Paisley Volunteer, and the subscription is in addition to what was subscribed by the Corps.

Alexander Walker,.....	£1	1	0	Andrew Smith & Son,.....	£21	0	0
Thomas Walker,.....	1	1	0	Robert Leishman,.....	1	1	0
John Bishop,.....	1	11	6	Robert Barclay,.....	10	10	0
William S. Stephen,.....	1	1	0	William Wilson,.....	2	2	0
James Beith, R.P.V.,.....	2	2	0	Claud Neilson,.....	100	0	0
John Laird,.....	2	2	0	James Lindsay,.....	1	1	0
William Giffen, R.P.V.,..	2	2	0	John Cochran,.....	0	10	6
William Lamb, R.P.V.,...	2	2	0	William Neilson,.....	2	2	0
Gavin Lambie, R.P.V.,...	2	2	0	Smith & Strang,.....	5	0	0
John Morrison,.....	1	1	0	Robert Gilmour,.....	1	1	0
George Maxwell, R.P.V.,	2	2	0	William Alexander,.....	10	10	0
John Barbour, sen.,.....	2	2	0	James Boyd,.....	1	1	0
John Stewart,.....	1	1	0	Robert Lockhart,.....	0	10	6
David M'Neill,.....	1	1	0	Henry Bowie,.....	5	5	0
John Craig, R.P.V.,.....	1	1	0	James Neilson,.....	1	1	0
David Thomson,.....	1	1	0	Francis Dunnet & Co.,...	3	3	0
James Blaikie, R.P.V.,...	1	1	0	Andrew Deans,.....	5	0	0
John Parker, R.P.V.,.....	1	1	0	Robert Baird,.....	5	0	0
Thomas Spreul,.....	1	1	0	William Pattison,.....	5	5	0
William Adam,.....	1	1	0	Jas. Buchanan, Newtown,	100	0	0
John Robertson,.....	2	2	0	John Corse,.....	50	0	0
John Fulton,.....	1	1	0	John Buchanan, Newtown,	21	0	0
Alexander Robertson,.....	0	10	6	John Gibb,.....	26	5	0
Daniel Shaw,.....	1	1	0	John Speirs,.....	5	5	0
Robert Weir,.....	0	7	6	John Fleming & Co.,.....	6	6	0
Walter Buchanan, jun.,...	1	1	0	Hugh Thomson,.....	15	0	0
James Carlisle,.....	5	5	0	Andrew Moody,.....	30	0	0
William Clark & Co.,.....	21	0	0	William M'Kechnie,.....	1	1	0
John Knox & Sons,.....	10	10	0	Matthew Smith,.....	10	10	0
Thomas Scott,.....	2	2	0	David Finlay,.....	5	0	0
John Bell,.....	5	5	0	John Fyfe,.....	2	2	0
William M'Lean,.....	1	1	0	John Shields,.....	1	1	0
Bain & Howie,.....	5	0	0	Gillies & White,.....	25	0	0
James Mair,.....	10	10	0	Edward Jamieson,.....	10	10	0
William Stow,.....	10	0	0	John Snodgrass,.....	10	10	0
John Brown,.....	2	2	0	William Orr, jun.,.....	10	10	0
Stevenson & Mann,.....	5	0	0	Joseph M'Leod,.....	5	5	0
Robert M'Lean,.....	5	5	0	Thomas Ker,.....	3	3	0
William Barr,.....	3	3	0	James Kibble, sen.,.....	50	0	0
John Calder,.....	5	5	0	Robert Cochran,.....	1	1	0
Thomas Aikenhead,.....	3	3	0	Alexander Nairne,.....	26	5	0
Robert Wilson,.....	31	10	0	Archibald Smith,.....	1	5	0
Robert Burnet & Co.,.....	1	1	0	Matthew Cathcart,.....	1	0	0
William Campbell,.....	2	0	0	Robert Cathcart,.....	1	0	0
William Hodge,.....	1	1	0	John Woodrow,.....	2	2	0
William Campbell,.....	2	0	0	Archibald Roxburgh,.....	2	2	0
David Traill,.....	2	2	0	James Donald,.....	2	2	0
Charles Ross,.....	10	10	0	William Gordon,.....	0	10	6
William Borland,.....	1	1	0	James Pattison,.....	1	1	0
John Paton,.....	2	2	0	David Corse,.....	21	0	0
Robert Jamieson,.....	1	1	0	John Young,.....	10	10	0
Robert Carswell,.....	1	1	0	Hew Snodgrass,.....	5	5	0
John Auchencloss,.....	2	2	0	William Hume,.....	3	3	0
Walter Weir & Son,.....	4	4	0	Robert Muir,.....	2	2	0
Thomas Marshall,.....	1	1	0	John King,.....	21	0	0
John Storie,.....	5	5	0	Thomas Bissland, sen.,....	21	0	0
John Thomson,.....	2	2	0	Wm. Robertson, Greenhill,	1	0	0
William Love,.....	6	0	0	Jas. Gardner, Arkleston, ¹	0	10	0

¹ *Glasgow Courier.*

The ladies of Paisley also being anxious to evince their patriotism and loyalty in that crisis, opened a subscription-list, and the following sums were procured :—

Mrs. Hamilton,	£100	0	0	Mrs. Stuart,	£6	6	0
Mrs. Neilson,	80	0	0	Mrs. Thomas Bissland, ...	5	5	0
Mrs. Wilson,	30	0	0	Mrs. Andrew Brown,	5	5	0
Mrs. John Orr,	5	5	0	Mrs. Charles Maxwell,	10	10	0
Mrs. Hunter,	8	8	0	Mrs. James Walkinshaw, ..	3	3	0
Mrs. Fulton, Hartfield, ...	10	10	0	Miss Young,	5	5	0

The total voluntary contributions in Paisley at that time amounted to £4516 4s. The population, including the Abbey Parish, was then about 27,000. In Glasgow, £15,191 13s. 6d. was subscribed.

On 24th October, 1798, there were great demonstrations in Paisley in honour of His Majesty's accession to the throne, and of the naval victory of Admiral Nelson at Aboukir on 1st August, 1798. The Lord-Lieutenant inspected the Volunteers; and, attended by the Magistrates and Sheriff, witnessed "three cheering volleys" at the Cross. The Lord-Lieutenant dined afterwards with the officers of the Volunteers, the Magistrates and Sheriff, the officers of the Dumbarton and Argyleshire Militia (then stationed in Paisley), and a number of private gentlemen. In the evening, illuminations commenced, and soon became universal throughout the town. Many beautiful transparencies, maritime devices, and appropriate mottoes and sentiments were exhibited. In the centre window of the County Hall and Sheriff-Clerk's office was a transparent crown, with the letters "G. III. R." over it, and the words, "God save the King." In a scroll over the figure of Britannia, pointing to ships at sea, was written, "Rule Britannia." On the other five windows were the names of Duncan, Nelson, Howe, St. Vincent, and Warren, in a transparent scroll, with the date and scene of their respective victories; and under the name of Nelson the beautiful introductory sentence of his lordship's official account of his victory. The whole was executed by Mr. Waterston, sen., painter. There were several bonfires; and the crowds in the streets conducted themselves in a most correct and orderly manner. When the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Ayrshire and Renfrewshire Militia heard of the victory of Admiral Nelson, they agreed to give two days' pay for the relief of the widows and children of those brave men who had fallen in that memorable action.

On 28th May, 1799, the Council agreed "to paint one flag to the town." It would likely be for the Militia. While it is true that a number of the inhabitants who held seditious opinions, and were admirers of the revolutionists in France, the great body of the people were nevertheless thoroughly loyal. During the latter part of the last decade of the century, the military ardour of the inhabitants was strong, and many recruits were obtained in Paisley for the army.

We have this, along with other interesting matter, testified by John Parkhill, who then lived in Paisley.

On 31st August, 1799, all the Volunteer associations of the county of Renfrew were reviewed by General Drummond, accompanied by Mr. Macdowall of Garthland, Lord-Lieutenant, in a field at Barnsford. The arrangements in connection with the review were upon a most extensive and novel scale. A tent in form of a square was erected in the field, to accommodate a company of about 300 ladies and gentlemen. In the centre of the tent a platform was placed for the company to dance on, and around it temporary tables and benches were erected for the Volunteer corps. Shortly after mid-day, the different corps, viz., the Infantry, Yeomanry of the County, the Royal Paisley Volunteers, the Loyal Greenock Volunteers, the Port-Glasgow Volunteers and Artillery, assembled in the field, and formed an extensive line two deep. The artillerymen, with two field-pieces, were ranged on each flank. The number of Volunteers present exceeded 1500. After the General and Lord-Lieutenant had passed along the lines, and the marching, firing, and evolutions were performed, and arms piled, the men went by companies to the tables, where they partook of an excellent dinner,—the respective captains presiding over each company. Afterwards, the General and Lord-Lieutenant, along with a numerous assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, repaired to the tent to partake of a cold collation, during which the band of the Forfarshire Militia discoursed some appropriate music. When the company withdrew from dinner, the tent was thrown open, and dancing was commenced, which continued for several hours. The crowd of spectators in the field was immense, amounting to at least 20,000. The utmost harmony, however, prevailed, everyone being impressed with those sentiments of loyalty, zeal, and public spirit which on all occasions distinguished the Volunteer associations of the county of Renfrew. Several popular songs were sung at the different tables. We give here the last verse of a song that was composed for the occasion:—

“When some demagogues wild to our Monarchy mild
 Had assumed of rebellion the armour,
 Their rage to restrain and our rights to maintain,
 We appealed to the Yeoman and Farmer.
 Now let Heaven’s vault ring to the health of the King,
 To Britannia,—no Frenchman shall harm her,—
 To our soldiers so brave, to each son of the wave,
 To the Volunteer, Yeoman, and Farmer.”

“The war was now going on in all its fury. Nothing was heard but the sound of drums and fifes, mixed with cavalry trumpets. There were, for two or three years, at least two dozen of recruiting parties in Paisley, which seemed to be universally considered a depot for recruits. At its commencement, the great majority of the people both in England and Scotland were much against war; and

the Government displayed great anxiety to infuse a warlike spirit into the nation. Hence, in every large town regiments of Volunteers were embodied, each of whom had a due complement of drums and fifes. They played through the streets at night, beating what was called the 'tattoo.' Every country parish had generally a company, termed the Yeomanry, who came in occasionally and were brigaded in the nearest large town. The first burst of the war took place in the Netherlands, where an army had been sent under the Duke of York. Here the army was defeated, and had to make a disastrous retreat in the most inclement part of the year. A vast number of the youths belonging to Paisley were in that ill-fated expedition, and the news of the death of many of them rendered the peaceful town a scene of sorrow and mourning. Indeed, it came so unexpectedly that the shock was irresistibly severe — many who had fallen not having been six weeks enlisted. There were a great many Highlanders at this time in Paisley. The Irish had not come in like a flood then, and therefore at all times there was a considerable Highland population here. As there were at least a dozen of Highland fencible regiments raised at the commencement of the war, a great number of recruits were drawn from that locality. Two or three regiments of light cavalry fencibles, too, had their head-quarters here; the town and its surrounding neighbourhood supplied sufficient raw material to make soldiers; and thus gradually a warlike spirit was infused into the nation. There is a wonderful alteration in men's minds now. I do not think that a regiment of a thousand strong could be raised in seven years, such is the growing intelligence of the people and their antipathy to war. So great a change from a state of peace to that of war made a wonderful impression on people's minds. Broken hearts and all the vicissitudes of ordinary life were nothing to it. Families were broken up, children were made fatherless, and wives left in all the misery of desolation; whereby a state of things was produced of which we, after more than forty years of peace, can form no conception. This, too, is only one portion of the picture. Thousands on thousands of innocent boys were spirited away; and it was nothing uncommon for three sons of one family to become soldiers. I had a brother who went off, and, young as I was, my heart was like to break. Every week letters were coming home giving the sad details of sons, fathers, and brothers killed, and of others who had died in hospitals from wounds or fevers produced by the pestilential malaria of inhospitable climates. Our soldiers were praised for their bravery; but, alas! many who came home severely wounded had the pitiful allowance of sixpence or tenpence per day awarded for all their bravery; whilst others, with their constitutions ruined for life, if they were not wounded, had no allowance whatever."¹

¹ *Autobiography of Arthur Sneddon*, p. 22. John Parkhill assumed this *nom de plume* in this way:—He lived in a house at Maxwellton that belonged to Mr. Arthur Smith, who resided in New Sneddon Street; and when Mr. Smith called for payment of rent, John Parkhill always said to his shopmates, "There comes Arthur Sneddon."

A game-preservation society existed in the county in this period, and its place of meeting was in Paisley—generally the Saracen's Head Inn. But we have no knowledge when it was established. The first notice we have of one of their business meetings was on 27th March, 1783, when the noblemen and gentlemen present resolved that all poachers should be immediately prosecuted—not only for offences committed against the game laws, but likewise for injuring fences. Offenders were to be prosecuted, at the expense of the society, by William Campbell, writer in Kilbarchan. At another meeting of the members of the association, held on 16th September, 1788, for the preservation of game in the county, it was represented that much game was destroyed with traps and snares; that poachers were extremely numerous; that many persons had taken out licenses who possessed no real property, and presumed to hunt upon grounds where they had no liberty; and that the rewards falling to informers, upon the conviction of offenders, were not generally understood. The meeting therefore resolved to intimate, as they were determined to put a stop to such illegal practices, that every person shooting a hare was liable in £20 scots (33s. 4d. stg.) for each offence; that any person carrying any sort of game, or having the same in their custody, without the leave or order of a person qualified, was, for the first offence, liable in payment of 20s. stg., or six weeks' imprisonment, and in payment of 40s. stg. for the second and every subsequent offence, or three months' imprisonment, and the informer is entitled to the half of these fines. And any person who shall use any gun or dog for the destruction of game, without having first obtained a license certificate, and paid £2 2s. therefor to government, is liable in the sum of £20 stg., payable wholly to the informer. William Campbell, writer in Kilbarchan, was again empowered to prosecute offenders at the expense of the society, and to pay informers a moiety of the penalties.

The first of the several serious depressions of trade in Paisley, which it will hereafter be our painful duty to record, occurred in 1783. In that year many of the weavers were out of employment, great poverty therefore prevailed, and they suffered very much, notwithstanding the efforts that were made to alleviate their distress. Provisions, at the same time, were high in price and very scarce. One of the schemes proposed by the manufacturers for assisting the working classes to get an opportunity of purchasing food at a moderate price, was to subscribe money, to be given in loan to the Town Council for six months, without charging any interest, and to be employed by them in purchasing meal and grain, to be sold in the market-place (*Council Records*, 24th January, 1783). The Council readily agreed to this proposal, and appointed a committee to manage the fund subscribed. Twenty manufacturing firms subscribed upwards of £1800 to carry out this philanthropic object. In addition to this generous loan of the manufacturers, about £400 was subscribed, to be given in weekly

payments to the necessitous, and committees of the subscribers were appointed to visit these in the different districts into which the town was subdivided, and to report to the general committee how much each should be allowed. In this way upwards of three hundred families, or single persons, enjoyed the benefit of this charitable supply. The relief committee also, in order to encourage farmers and others to bring meal to the market, offered a bounty of sixpence per boll to any who should bring above nine bolls of meal, and sell the same in the market, in one week. Persons acting in this way were also to be free from all town's dues.

At the beginning of 1786, many of the working classes were again suffering from the depressed state of the weaving trade. A fund, to which the Council, in consequence of "the state of the poor inhabitants" (*Council Records*, 11th January, 1786), subscribed £20, was raised for their relief. The different societies in the town also joined in contributing to this fund; and the Countess of Glasgow gave one hundred carts of coals, to be distributed among the poor of the town, which helped to relieve those who were suffering from the temporary stagnation of trade.

In 1793, the weaving trade was again in a very depressed state, and many of the industrious poor suffered severely. On 26th November, in that year, a meeting of the principal inhabitants was held, to consider some method for relieving those out of work, when it was agreed to open a subscription for that purpose. Three hundred guineas was subscribed at that meeting — one firm having given fifty guineas; and Col. Allan Cameron generously transmitted twenty guineas to the Magistrates, in aid of the fund. Within a week afterwards, nearly £900 had been subscribed (a proof of the opulence and liberality of the merchants) to assist in lessening the sufferings of those who could not obtain employment.

The Town Council continued, when necessary, to enforce the fine against those who refused to act as councillors when elected. On 3rd November, 1788, "the town clerk reported that Bailie John Storrie had lodged in his hands £3 stg., as a fine for not accepting being a councillor." On 22nd October, 1799, "the Council, considering that Mr. Wm. Bissland has refused, after being chosen, to accept of the office of councillor, they enact and fine him in £3 stg. for this refusal, and to be prosecuted therefor."

Unlicensed distillers of whiskey appear to have been numerous at this time, and interfered very much with the business of those who paid their licenses. On 6th October, 1786, a meeting of the licensed distillers was held at Paisley, for the protection of the trade and the fair dealer. For that purpose they resolved to raise a fund, each paying in proportion to the contents of his still, to be applied to the discovery of illicit distillers, those who let houses for such purposes,

and officers of excise who connived at such unlawful practices within their districts (*Glasgow Mercury*).

On the recovery of George III. from his alarming attack, in April, 1789, the Magistrates and Council forwarded an address to His Majesty, as follows:—"We take leave to offer to your Majesty our most cordial congratulations upon the very joyful occasion of your Majesty's being recovered from an inflicting indisposition, and restored to a dutiful and affectionate people. We cannot but express our sincere joy upon an event so felicitous to these realms, and so ardently desired by persons of every rank amongst us. And we trust, in the benignity of the gracious providence of God, that your Majesty will be long preserved a blessing to your people, the great promoter of public happiness and of private virtue, and the patron and protector of these inestimable privileges, both civil and sacred, which we have, in so eminent a degree, enjoyed ever since the illustrious House of Hanover ascended the British Throne." The address was signed by the three Bailies.

When the renewal of the East India Company's charter, in 1792, came to be discussed by Parliament, a meeting of manufacturers, called by the Magistrates, was held, to consider how they might be affected by that measure. They unanimously agreed to petition Parliament not to renew the charter.

A petition being laid before the Council by John Gibb and Nisbet Sinclair, vintners, and others, for liberty to erect a machine to weigh hay, on a steading in Broomlands, the Council agreed to grant the same (*Council Records*, 17th September, 1788). This, no doubt, was the commencement of what is now known as the Hay Weighs, in King Street, at the present time. On 7th October, 1791, the Council appointed all persons within the burgh, "who have lead weights, in the sale of their different articles, to lay them aside, and in future to use metal (iron) weights in their stead." At the same meeting, they also ordained "the whole of the potato dishes, within the burgh, to be adjusted and marked by James Graham, cooper, and those found not marked to be seized." On 7th October, 1795, they enacted, "that no milk in town shall be sold with a less measure than one of the four gills brandy measure."

It was in 1788 that the subject of the abolition of the slave trade was first brought under the notice of the Council. On 28th February, in that year, they agreed "to petition Parliament for the abolition of that trade." Four years afterwards, this subject was again brought under the notice of the Council, when the Magistrates reported that they had been requested "to call a meeting of the inhabitants, to consider of the abolition of the slave trade; and in consequence thereof, they had warned a considerable number of the inhabitants to meet this evening in the Court hall." The

Council unanimously approved of the Magistrates' conduct in this matter.

Sabbath schools, from which the children in the town have always derived so much good, were first established in 1788. At a meeting of Council, held on 25th January, in that year, there was laid before the members "a scheme for Sabbath schools, by the ministers and members of the Society for the Reformation of Manners," and they approved of the same. On 15th February following, the Council nominated nine gentlemen, to be directors, for managing Sabbath exercises. It was not, however, it appears, till ten years thereafter, that an energetic society was constituted for the management of Sabbath-evening schools. The promoters of it first met in November, 1797. On 26th December following, they had another meeting in Mr. Bell's school-room, Storie Street, and afterwards a meeting in the Low Church Session-house, on 5th January, 1798, when rules were agreed to "for the erection and support of Sabbath-evening schools in Paisley," and also "rules for conducting the schools." The first rule was, "the sole rule of these schools shall be religious instruction." The income of the society, for the first year, was derived from the sums collected at six sermons, delivered in the High Church, amounting to £119 8s. 5d. One of the sermons was by the Rev. Wm. Ferrier, of Oakshaw Secession Church, on 1st July, 1798, and it was afterwards published in that year, at the request of the committee for directing the Sabbath schools. During the first year of the society, Mr. Wm. Carlile was preses, and Mr. Wm. M'Gavin, secretary. The society was at first very successful. At the commencement there were 1200 children; at the end of April, in that year, twenty schools and 1495 children, and in September following, 1526 children.¹

Letterpress printing was commenced in Paisley in 1769. Prior to that time, what was required was done in Glasgow, where the art was introduced about 1630. The first book printed in Paisley was entitled, "An Essay on Christ's Cross and Crown, to which are subjoined six sermons, by the Rev. George Muir, minister of the Gospel, at Paisley; the second edition. — Paisley: Printed by Weir and M'Lean, and sold at the shop of A. Weir, near the Cross, 1769." Mr. Muir was minister of the High Church at that time. In that year the same firm printed "Ascanius—the third edition—for James Davidson & Co., Fergusley, near Paisley." Another book was printed in Paisley in this year, the title of which was, "A Prophecy concerning the Lord's return to Scotland, &c." The printer's name is not given, but it was "printed for and sold by George M'Kimmen, travelling merchant, 1769." The Rev. Thomas Blackwell, one of

¹ Appendix to two sermons, published in 1798, by the Rev. Mr. Ferrier,—the one being the sermon already referred to, and the other relating to the death of his colleague, the Rev. Mr. Elice.

the ministers of the Abbey, was the author of a work entitled, "Schema Sacra; or sacred scheme of natural and revealed religion," which was also printed in Paisley, in 1769, by A. Weir and A. M'Lean, for A. Weir, bookseller, at the Cross. A work entitled "Dying Thoughts, by the late Wm. Crawford," was also printed in the same year by that firm, and for the same bookseller. In 1770, and subsequent years to the end of the century, many important and valuable books and pamphlets came from the Paisley press. The first Paisley Directory was combined with one for Glasgow and several other towns. It was published by John Tait, stationer, Glasgow, and was entitled, "Directory for the City of Glasgow—villages of Anderston, Calton, and Gorbals; also for the towns of Paisley, Greenock, Port-Glasgow, and Kilmarnock, from 15th May, 1783, to 15th May, 1784." There is only one copy of the original now remaining, and a reprint of it was published in 1871, by Robert Forrester, Glasgow. Mr. Tait did not publish any more Directories. The first Directory published in Scotland was for Edinburgh, in 1773.

Cotton spinning, so extensively carried on in some other parts of the country at the end of this century, was commenced in Paisley in 1782. This industry, however, was never prosecuted in Paisley with the same energy and spirit as some other trades. At the end of this century there were ten mills of this kind, but some of them were small, and the machinery was propelled by horse-power.

Although horse racing was continued yearly in this period, yet very little is mentioned regarding it in the Council records. At the races in August, 1780, a melancholy accident happened. One of the horses fell with his rider, and the horse that was coming up close behind went over them, and the man was so much bruised that he died the following day. Another young man, who was looking on, was also ridden down. He had his skull fractured, one of his legs broken, and was otherwise so much injured that he died also.

The following is a copy of the advertisement in the newspapers, intimating the race that was to take place in August, 1790:—"A race at Paisley. That upon Thursday, the 26th day of August instant, there is to be run for over the ordinary course, for ten guineas, the best of three heats, by any horse, mare, or gelding, who never gained a fifty pounds prize. The horses to be booked at Mr. Sinclair's, Saracen's Head, at ten o'clock that day, and to pay ten shillings and sixpence each; and the race to start precisely at twelve noon. No race unless three horses start. There will also be after shots by the beaten horses. Judges will be appointed for the race. Paisley, 7th August, 1790."

On 25th January, 1793, a minute of Council states that "it was suggested by a number of the councillors, that the present course for Saint James race is not convenient for the purpose, on account

of the buildings. The whole Council is appointed as a committee to examine what course shall be most proper for continuing said race." The records do not afterwards show whether any resolution was come to regarding the improvement or changing of the race course. But on 22nd July following, "the Council agreed, by a majority of votes, that there shall be no race, as usual, at Saint James Fair." At a meeting of Council, held three days afterwards, "a petition being given by a number of the inhabitants, praying that the Council would reconsider the last act of Council cancelling the race at Saint James Fair, and to allow the race to be continued as usual, and the Council considered the same; they, by a majority of votes, agreed to receive said petition, and to grant the desire thereof, by allowing the same to go on as formerly; against which Bailie Patison dissented, and adhered to the act superseding the race at last meeting." At the same meeting, the Council appointed "a committee to look out for a new race course, and to report."

Mr. W. Semple, in his *History of the Shire of Renfrew*, page 329, states that, "on Friday following St. James Day Fair, there is a horse race called Son James's Race. The reason for this was that in ancient times Lord Semple's family gave an acre of land, called the green acre, lying on the south side of St. James Street, the rent of which to pay the winner of the race his prize, and the race for ever to be called Our Son James Race." No ground was at any time gifted by Lord Semple's family for such a purpose. This was plainly brought out at a subsequent period by a Town-Clerk who was well qualified to speak upon the subject. At a meeting of Council, held on the 9th August, 1842, Mr. Robert Wilson, town-clerk, in answer to an inquiry from a member of Council, stated "that it was a popular error to suppose that ground had been bequeathed to the Council for the support of the race for the Silver Bells. No such bequest had taken place. The Bell Race, however, was of very old standing, having been instituted in 1608 by the Town Council, and afterwards remodelled by them, with the advice of the Earl of Abercorn (then Lord Provost of the Burgh), Lord Sempill, Lord Rose, Lord Blantyre, and other nobles residing near the town. Since the institution of the Bell Race, it had been run every year, with few exceptions,—the Council having always contributed a certain sum towards the prize." As regards the name of the race, it is derived, not in the way stated by W. Semple, the historian, but from the fact that it was run at the fair of St. James. We have hitherto given every authentic particular relating to the establishment and conducting of these races from the Council records. Mr. Semple appears not to have consulted these, or he would not have given currency to such fables as the bequest of the green acre and the race named from "our son James." At that time, the race-course consisted of the roads round about the piece of land belonging to the Council called the twenty-four acres. The horses were started in Love Street, at

the east end of Springbank or Shambles Road, thence they ran along Love Street, Saint James Street, Caledonia Street, to the Shambles Road, and so returned to Love Street.¹

The year 1782 was distinguished by a wonderful inundation of the river Cart. Every winter there were floods or spates in the river to some extent, but that which took place on Tuesday, 12th March, 1782, was the most remarkable for magnitude in the annals of the town. During several days previously there had been a continuous fall of snow and rain in the districts surrounding the upper reaches of the Cart. On the day mentioned the water was at its height. Unfortunately, we are without any detailed information as to the effect of the flood on the town and the injury it did. Mr. William Semple, the historian, to whom we have been indebted in several instances for information, published his work in 1782; and although in some cases he is sufficiently particular, and even garrulous about unimportant things, yet regarding this occurrence he is painfully laconic. All he states is, that "in March 12th, 1782, the town was visited with an inundation of water. The river was fifteen inches higher than in the year 1712." We are, however, so far fortunate that we have at the present day an excellent landmark, which plainly shows the height the water attained on that memorable day. On the wall of the meal-house of the Seedhill Mill,² fronting the public street, the exact height of the flood is marked in these words:—

"Height of flood here, on the 12th March, 1782."

This graving out of the solid, is at least five feet above the level of the street. That height of water throughout the lower parts of the town must have done much damage, and subjected many to

¹ The following advertisement appeared in the *Glasgow Mercury* of 20th August, 1778:—"There is a race to be run upon the ordinary course of the Muir of Renfrew, upon Friday, the 28th of August instant, for the sum of one guinea to the first and half-a-guinea to the second horse, mare or gelding. To start at 12 o'clock mid-day. Likewise, a foot race, at 11 o'clock said day. There will also be an after-shot race. The articles of the race to be seen in the hands of the Town-Clerk of Renfrew any time betwixt and the day of the race. N.B.—The Magistrates to be judges of the race."

Glasgow Courier, 29th September, 1798.—"Yesterday, one Spence, a Chairman in Paisley, undertook to decide a bet of twenty guineas between some gentlemen in Glasgow and Paisley, by running from the Cross of Paisley to the Cross of Glasgow, and thence again to the Cross of Paisley, a distance of fifteen and a-half miles, in one hour and thirty-five minutes, being at the rate of ten miles an hour, which he lost only by five minutes. This extraordinary undertaking he could have accomplished within the time, but for the high wind and the badness of the road, which had been undergoing alterations and repairs."

² On the 18th October, 1799, the Seedhill Mills were, except the large water wheel, entirely destroyed by fire, notwithstanding the exertions of a multitude of people, who tried to extinguish the flames. The water wheel was preserved by admitting the water, which kept it in motion, and prevented the flames from affecting it."

distress. Several bleachfields in the neighbourhood were overflowed by the water, and a considerable quantity of goods was carried away.¹

The Infirmary, that noble and beneficial institution, was first commenced as a dispensary ; and the first meeting of its promoters, of which the following are the minutes, was held on 18th April, 1786. "This day a meeting of some of the principal inhabitants was held, to consider a proposal by some of the medical gentlemen, for establishing a General Dispensary for the Town of Paisley and Abbey Parish—Andrew Brown, Esq., preses. The proposal being read, was unanimously approved, and a considerable sum subscribed towards defraying the expense of the charity. The meeting appointed the following gentlemen, viz. :—Messrs. Andrew Brown, Robert Fulton, James Lowndes, James Wilson, writer, Robert Cross, James Hay, and Robert Orr, a committee, to commune with the medical gentlemen, and draw a proper plan for the management of the dispensary ; to be reported at the first general meeting." It will thus be seen that the medical gentlemen of that day have the credit and honour of proposing the establishment of this useful institution. The first general meeting was held in the Court-house, on the 5th May following, when the committee appointed at the previous meeting, "reported the following plan for managing the medical department of the charity :—That a convenient and central place, consisting of two apartments—one for preparing the medicines, and the other for a consulting room, being provided, and a set of instruments, and a stock of medicine being purchased, and a proper person being hired for dispensing the medicines, according to the prescriptions of the physicians and surgeons. The surgeons shall take charge of the charity quarterly, by rotation, and physicians through the year. That one of the surgeons and the physicians shall attend at the Dispensary every Tuesday and Friday morning, from nine to ten o'clock, to give advice to such patients as are able to come to the Dispensary. That the patients who are confined shall be visited at their own houses. It being understood that the physician and surgeon are not obliged to visit any beyond the limits of the town and suburbs. That the Dispensary shall be open every day from nine o'clock in the morning to eight o'clock at night, for the reception of certificates. That the officiating surgeon shall, at least a week before his quarter ends, make the succeeding surgeon acquainted with the state of the patients. And if any principal operation has been performed, and the patient not cured at the end of the quarter, the surgeon who performed the operation shall continue his attendance till the cure is completed ; in like manner, if there is any particular case at the end of a quarter, the

¹ "I was present in the year 1782, when the great flood of Clyde overflowed the whole of the lower parts of the city [of Glasgow], and beheld boats navigating the Bridgegate, and ascending King Street above the markets, to the great wonder and terror of the inhabitants" (*Old Glasgow and its Environs*, by Senex [Robert Reid], p. 119.

surgeon who treated it formerly, shall attend with the ordinary surgeon, if necessary; if the officiating surgeon is obliged to be absent, he shall call the next in rotation to attend the Dispensary till his return. That it shall be in the power of the physician and officiating surgeon to call one other to their assistance, when they think proper, and they shall attend at every consultation. That the patients shall be obliged to conform to the rules drawn up for their regulation, during their attendance in the Dispensary." This sensible and practical report is signed by Wm. Farquharson, physician, and John White, Robert Thyme, and David Wardrop, surgeons. The committee also submitted the following regulations to the consideration of the meeting:— "1st, That no subscription under 5s. shall be received; but as many people who are willing to subscribe may choose to contribute, there shall be an annual collection at the house of non-subscribers. 2nd, Every subscriber shall be entitled to have one patient on the books at a time, for every 10s. he subscribes. Two subscribers of 5s. each shall likewise be entitled to have a patient on the books. 3rd, Every person who subscribes £1 stg. annually, shall be entitled to be elected a manager. 4th, Every person who subscribes £3 3s. annually, shall be a perpetual manager. 5th, The Dispensary shall be under the direction of the perpetual managers, the physician and surgeons of the charity, and eighteen subscribers chosen annually. These eighteen elected managers shall form themselves into three committees, of equal numbers, for the constant management of the Dispensary, each of the committees to act four months at a time by rotation. The other managers to be members of all committees, and to have the same power as those who are elected. The committees shall appoint their own meetings. 6th, There shall be an annual general meeting the second Tuesday of May, for the election of managers and the inspection of the books of the charity. 7th, At least fourteen days before the election, the printed lists of those who are entitled to become managers, shall be furnished to the subscribers, who, on the day of election, shall give in signed lists of such gentlemen as they choose managers, and these lists shall be referred to the preses and two gentlemen named by the meeting, as scrutineers, to declare on whom the election has fallen. The state of the votes to be secret, unless a scrutiny is demanded. 8th, Each subscriber shall have a vote for every 10s. he subscribes. 9th, Ladies may vote by proxy; and noblemen and gentlemen not residing in town, may vote and recommend patients by a proxy given to any subscriber. 10th, The apothecary shall be balloted for at the first general meeting, and be continued in office while he behaves to the satisfaction of the managers. The agreement with him shall be such, that the managers shall have it in their power to turn him off in case of misconduct, on paying him a month's wages. On the other hand, he shall engage for a year certain from the time of his first election, and thereafter be obliged to give two months' warning to the managers, before leaving his place. In the event of

a vacancy, a general meeting shall be called, for the purpose of balloting for another apothecary. 11th, Every question shall be determined by a fair majority of votes, the preses for the time being to have the casting vote. 12th, To prevent the charity from being abused, no patient shall be entitled to the benefit of it without a certificate from a subscriber; and if it appears that such subscriber has willingly recommended an improper object, he shall be obliged to refund the expenses incurred by his certificate, or be deprived of the privilege of recommending one patient for the remainder of the year. 13th, To prevent confusion in admitting patients, printed tickets, signed by one of the managers, shall be delivered to every subscriber, in proportion to his subscription; and when he sends a patient to the Dispensary, he shall enclose one of his tickets in a letter, purporting that he has given the bearer the benefit of the enclosed ticket. This letter he shall sign, seal, and send to the apothecary, by the patient, and the ticket shall be returned to the owner when the patient is dismissed. 14th, The apothecary shall keep books, for the purpose of entering the patients' names, by whom recommended, diseases, and treatment when under cure. He shall keep a daily account of the medicines used, to be compared with two inventories — one taken at the beginning of the year, and the other at the end. He shall, likewise, keep an exact account of the general expenses of the charity. The books shall be open at all times to the inspection of the managers, and be annually laid before the general meeting. 15th, A list of the subscribers, and general state of the patients and funds of the charity, shall be published annually." The meeting unanimously approved of these most excellent rules, some of which are in force at the present time, and ordered them to be printed for the information of the public.

The next general meeting was held on the 27th of the same month (May), when the following managers were elected, — printed lists having previously been delivered to the subscribers :—

Messrs. John Wilson, Robert Fulton, Claud Neilson, James Lowndes, Robert Corse,	}	Perpetual Managers.
---	---	---------------------

Messrs. Andrew Brown. Herbert Buchanan. James Hay. James Wilson, writer. William Stewart. John Bell. John Young. John Christie. Charles Maxwell.	Messrs. Robert Hunter. Robert Boog. John Orr. John Pollock. James Mylne. James Kibble. Alexander Gibson. Thomas Caldwell. Thomas Kibble.
--	--

The meeting then proceeded to elect an apothecary, by ballot.

There were two candidates, Mr. Winning of Paisley and Mr. Brown of Edinburgh, when the former was chosen,—his salary to be £25 per annum, without board. The medical gentlemen reported to the meeting that they had purchased the medicine and shop utensils of the late Mr. Gibson, surgeon, for the use of the Dispensary, for £45; and of this the meeting approved.¹ The managers resolved to open the Dispensary, and desired the preses to ask the Rev. Mr. Finlay to preach on that occasion. The next meeting of the managers was held in the session-house of the High Church, on 6th June following, immediately after the sermon by Mr. Finlay. At this meeting, Bailie Brown was elected preses and convener for the year; Mr. James Hogg, treasurer; and there was a unanimous vote of thanks passed to Mr. Finlay for his sermon. The Dispensary required two rooms, but the minutes do not state in what part of the town they were situated; all they state is that they were in premises belonging to John Love, Esq.

The number of patients admitted from 1st June,				
1786, to 1st June, 1787, was	...	...	...	337
Of whom there were cured,	...	...	...	230
Relieved, ... ..	...	...	...	4
Dismissed for irregularity or as deserted				
and improper, ... ..	...	...	...	6
² Died, ... ..	...	...	...	49
Remain under cure, ... ..	...	...	...	48
				— 337

The managers divided themselves into committees to attend to the Dispensary; and at a meeting of committee, held on 13th June following, at the suggestion “of the physician and surgeons that some wine and porter would be needed for the patients,” ordered such to be bought. At the general meeting, held on 10th June, 1788, the Rev. Mr. Boog, of the Abbey Church, was elected preses and convener for the current year. In January, 1789, an additional small room, at the annual rent of £1, was taken from Mr. Love. At a meeting, held on 18th May, 1789, the following was reported as the state of the patients during the past year:—“Cured, 220; relieved, 27; died, 47; found incurable, 2; dismissed for irregularities, 7; and remaining on the books, 38. In that year, Mr. Hogg having resigned his treasurership, choice was made of Mr. James Wilson, writer, in his place. The statement regarding patients under treatment for the year 1789-90 was as follows:—Cured, 260; relieved, 16; died (of whom 21 were incurable when admitted), 33; and remain on the books, 56; in all, 365.” In October, 1791, Mr. Winning, apothecary, having resigned in order to attend the Medical College at Glasgow, Mr. John Holmes was elected to succeed him,

¹ Mr. Gibson was a brother of Mr. Gibson, town-clerk at that time, and his place of business was at the Cross.

² Of this number, 30 were either far gone in consumption, or had been formerly dismissed from different hospitals.

at the same salary. He resigned in 1795, and Mr. Rodman was chosen as his successor, at the same salary. Mr. Graham and Mr. Paton were also candidates for the situation. On 13th June, 1796, Mr. Wilson, treasurer, reported to a meeting of managers that the expenditure during the past year had been £276 12s., and that there was a balance against the Dispensary of £65 13s. 11d. This is the first annual statement of income and expenditure given in the minutes. The first reference to the funds is to be found in the yearly statement for 1791, when the balance of cash on hand was £70 18s. 7d.; in 1792 it was £68 13s. 8d.; in 1793, £80 2s. 10d.; in 1794, £96 13s. 11d.; and in 1795, £92 15s. 2d. The statement as to the patients for the year 1795-6 was as follows:—Cured, 380; relieved, 70; incurable, 9; dismissed, 5; left the town, 4; went to the poorhouse, 1; dead (of whom 32 were incurable when admitted), 46; remaining on the books, 16; in all, 531. In September, 1796, Mr. Rodman, apothecary, resigned. He stated, “in consequence of the great number of patients admitted to the benefit of the charity during the last winter, he had been subjected to an extraordinary degree of labour, and requesting that such an acknowledgment should be made to him as the directors might think reasonable.” They agreed to allow him £10 in addition to his salary. Mr. William Hepburn was elected apothecary. The subscriptions for 1797-8 were £189 1s. 6d, and the expenditure, £146 9s. 6d., leaving a balance of £42 13s.; which, with £10 3s. 9d. of a balance of the previous year, made the sum in the treasurer’s hands to be £50 14s. 9d. In January, 1799, an apparatus for the recovery of persons immersed in water was ordered from London. In July, 1799, the apothecary reported that, of the patients treated during the past year, 95 had been cured, 8 relieved, 18 had died, and 7 had left the town, while 36 remained on the books; in all, 164. In October, 1799, Mr. Hepburn, apothecary, resigned, and Mr. David Black was elected in his place.

Prior to 1783 there was no banking establishment in Paisley,—all business in that way having been done through banks in Glasgow. In that year, however, the Paisley Banking Company was established, and the following is a copy of the advertisement in the newspapers announcing its commencement of business:—

“1st October, 1783.—The under-mentioned gentlemen, viz.:—

Andrew Thomson of Faskine,	} Merchants in Glasgow,
George Thomson,	
Hugh Niven,	
John M’Kerrell of Hillhouse,	} Merchants in Paisley,
Robert Fulton,	
John Wilson,	
Claud Neilson,	
James Lowndes, and	
Robert Corse,	

Beg leave to intimate that they have commenced the business of

banking in the town of Paisley, under the firm of the Paisley Banking Company; and that an obligation is this day registered in the Borough Court books of Paisley, obligating themselves to pay all notes and bills issued under the foresaid firm, and signed by James Hogg, cashier."

On 1st October, 1785, Andrew Thomson of Faskine, George Thomson, and Hugh Niven retired from the company; but the other six partners belonging to Paisley remained. In 1789 there was a forgery on the notes of the company, and a man of the name of Provan, belonging to the parish of Dreghorn, was committed to Paisley Prison for being concerned in circulating them.

In May, 1788, another banking company was formed,—the Union Bank, Paisley. The first partners were George Houston, of Johnstone; John Semple, of Earnock; Charles Maxwell, of Merksworth; James Henderson, of Enochbank, Glasgow; Charles Addison, of Woodhead; John Cochran, Robert Orr, and John Christie, merchants in Paisley; and John Duguid, merchant, Glasgow. The first cashier was Mr. John Likly. In November, 1791, a parcel containing notes of the Paisley Union Bank, to the amount of £500, was abstracted from the London mail coach, between London and Carlisle.

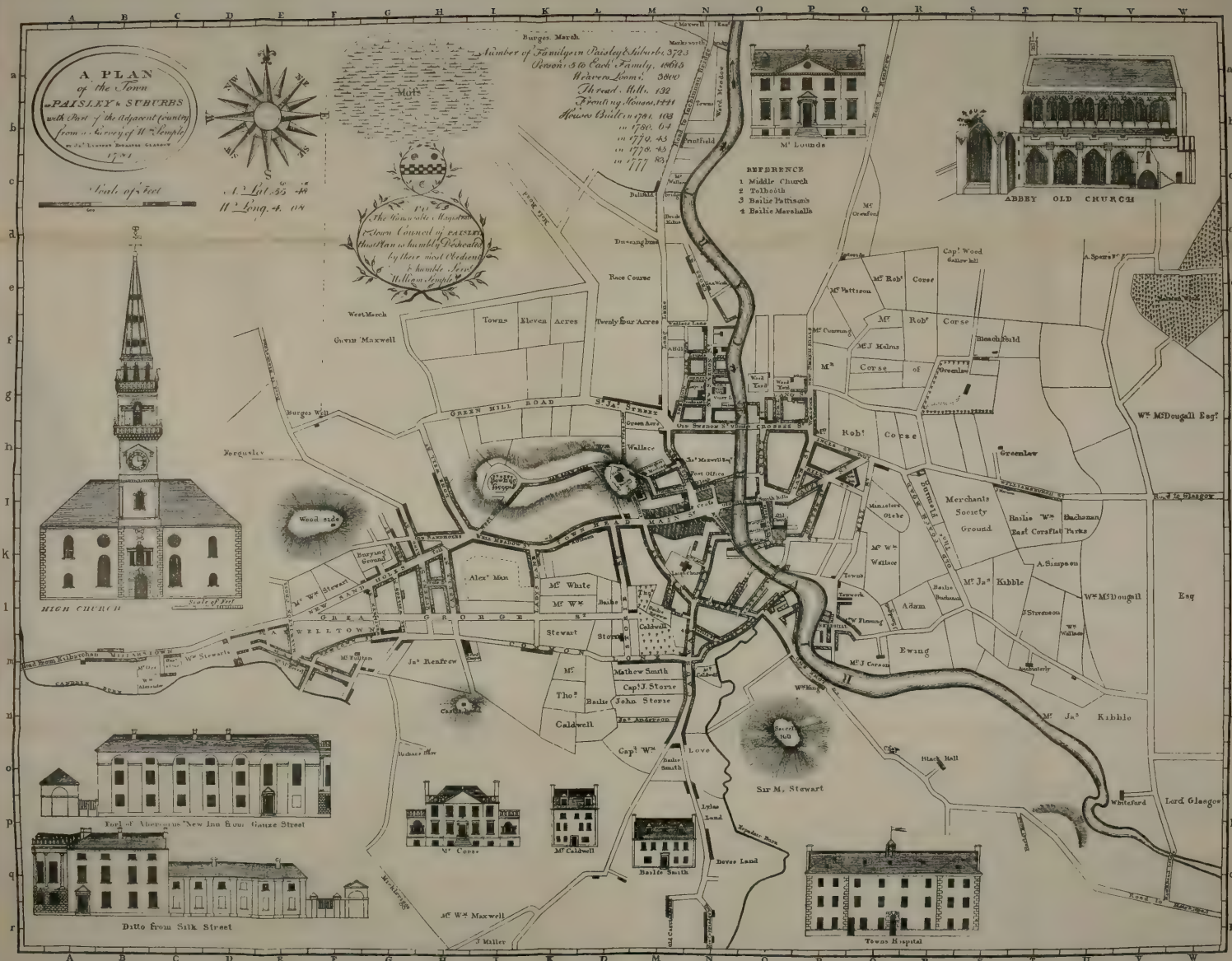
The first map of Paisley was published in 1781, by W. Semple, author of *Semple's Continuation of Crawford's History of the Shire of Renfrew*.¹ As this plan, with its numerous illustrations, is very valuable and interesting, we give a copy of it.

In 1782, the Magistrates and Council "found it necessary to take down the bridge betwixt the town and Smithhills, on account of its decayed state, and to rebuild the same wider than formerly." The bridge recently improved was then erected, at an expense of "£779 5s. 11½d., of which the Council received £350 stg. from the Trustees on the Turnpike roads; and the remainder, being £429 5s. 11½d., was paid out of the town's funds" (*Council Records*, 2nd August, 1783). The plan of the new bridge was drawn by James Brown, architect, Kilbarchan (*Council Records*, 25th January, 1782). The arches of the pen bridge were then stated to be each forty-six feet wide and thirty-six feet high, and the bridge twenty-nine feet broad at the east end, and twenty-five feet broad at the west end.²

¹ William Semple was born at Kaimhill, in the Parish of Kilbarchan, on 29th April, 1747. He received his education at the Parish School of Kilbarchan, where he also learned mensuration. On leaving the school, he carried on there the business of a land surveyor for several years, and frequently acted as an architect. He afterwards removed to Paisley, where he carried on the same business. Some time after the publication of his history, he went to America to live with his brother, and never returned.

² The following advertisement appeared in the *Glasgow Mercury* of 6th December, 1781:—A bridge to be built. The Magistrates and Council of Paisley propose to take down, and rebuild, the bridge betwixt the town and Smithhills, agreeable to a plan lying in the Town Clerk's Chamber for inspection. Such as incline to undertake this work, are desired to lodge their proposals in the hands of Alex. Gibson, Town Clerk, immediately.





In 1785, the practice of vagrant begging had increased to such a degree in the country parishes, that a petition was presented to the Justices at the May Quarter Session, signed by farmers and other inhabitants in many of the parishes, praying them to interpose their authority to stop the nuisance. After agreeing that the different parishes should arrange to support their own poor, the Justices resolved that vagrant beggars should be prevented strolling through the country; and to carry their resolution out, appointed a number of respectable farmers, and other inhabitants, in each parish, to assist the constables in apprehending every vagrant who should, after the 8th of August, be found begging in the country (*Glasgow Mercury*).

The streets in Paisley were certainly in a bad condition during the period we are considering; but the roads in the county, including those leading into the town, were even worse. The county roads were maintained under the Acts of Charles II. and George I., called the statute labour acts, by which Justices of Peace were authorised to call out the tenants, cottars, and servants, with their horses, carts, and implements, for six days yearly, to make and repair the highways in the county. These acts were found, however, to be very ineffectual. In 1753, a turnpike act was obtained, followed by two other acts, for building a bridge at Inchinnan, and for making roads from Glasgow to Greenock, and from the three-mile house to Clark's bridge on the Beith road. These roads were made about seventeen years thereafter. The statute labour was reserved for the cross and parochial roads, which were almost impassable, and quite unfit for carriages. Wheel carriages were not then used; for so late as 1770, lime, coal, grain, &c., were generally carried on horses' backs (*Wilson's View of Renfrewshire*, p. 177). Prior to the erection of a bridge at Inchinnan, in 1759, the White Cart and the Black Cart were only crossed at that part by ferries and fords; and the traffic between Paisley and Greenock was by Inchinnan, until Barnsford bridge was built in 1793. Some pedestrians, to secure a shorter road than that by Inchinnan, went through Paisley Moss, and crossed the Gryffe at Barnsford, by the ford or ferry there. The Town Council contributed "£100 towards the building of the bridge at Barnsford," and also agreed "to become assignees on this road, along with the other trustees, for making and repairing the same" (*Council Records*, 21st January, 1793).

We do not know when carriers first commenced to trade regularly between Paisley and Glasgow; but in 1783, a carrier started daily from Findlay's, Trongate (*Tait's Directory*). And in the same year, we read that "A Paisley diligence sets out from Pinkerton's and Dunbar's, Trongate, twice every day but Sabbath" (*Tait's Directory*). The Council, it appears, had some kind of houses for protecting coaches, for on the 30th December, 1793, they agreed "to set the

town's shades for coaches, at thirty shillings each, or as much more as can be got for them, and authorise the magistrates to make the bargain."

The inhabitants derived their supply of water, for domestic purposes, almost entirely from public wells, situated in different parts of the town. Some proprietors of houses had a well of their own at the "yaird fit," but of these there were not many. The wells throughout the town appear usually to have been sufficiently numerous to meet the moderate demands of the inhabitants, who did not then require it for baths and other purposes which, at the present time, are deemed indispensable. The Burgh records do not refer to any scarcity of water being felt by the inhabitants, except in one instance, when a petition was presented to the Council, from the "inhabitants and burgesses in Moss raw, representing that they are frequently much straitened for want of water, and craving, therefore," that they would open the "old well" at Mr. Gibson's tenement. The Council "agreed to do the same, and for that end allow any of the neighbours that pleases to contribute what they think proper,—and recommend to the Bailies, wholly or severally, to see this act put in operation" (*Council Records*, 30th June, 1713). It would appear that prior to 1780, the wells were mostly dipping or draw wells, and it was after that period that pumps were attached to them. At anyrate, it was only at that time that pumps, in connection with wells, are referred to; and occasionally the Council, with the view of aiding the inhabitants in obtaining water more readily, supplied pumps. On 5th June, 1787, the Council agreed "to give a pump to Sneddon well, the inhabitants always preparing the well in suitable manner for it." On 17th September, 1792, the inhabitants in West Street, being about to dig a well there, petitioned the Council to supply them with a pump, "they agreed to do so when a sufficiency of water" was found. At the same meeting, the Council agreed "to allow Bailie Smith, and others, £1 16s. for a house to the well at the head of Causeyside." On 22nd September, 1794, "the Council appoint the Master of Works to examine the pumps in town, to see how far one can be spared to a new dug well in Castle Street; and if none can be spared, to provide a new one; and at same time, they allow £2 2s. for a house to the well." On 30th November, 1795, the Council agreed "to give the inhabitants in John Street a pump to the well that they are setting down, and to sell the old pump at west steeple well, as it has gone out of use." "At the Seedhill Mill there is a good spring well, the pump under lock and key, being particular for its taste and smell, and used as a remedy for several diseases." (*W. Semple's History*, p. 289).

In 1778, the Council contemplated applying to Parliament for an act to accomplish certain police improvements, and to obtain powers to provide a supply of water. On the 1st September in that year, they actually resolved "to apply to Parliament for an act

authorising them to bring in water for supplying the town, lighting and paving the streets, and other purposes." This important resolution, however, is not referred to again.

The Council, on 28th September, 1799, fixed the entry of burgesses as follows:—A stranger, £3 6s. 8d.; a person who has married a burgess's daughter, £1 11s. 6d.; eldest son of a burgess, 10s. 6d.; each younger son of a burgess, £1 1s.; stallinger fine for not entering a burgess, 10s. 6d. No alteration was afterwards made on these rates. During the latter half of the century, the freedom of the town was not conferred on any person.

The birth-day of George III., on 4th June, was always held as a day of rejoicing by the inhabitants, and was celebrated in a variety of ways. In 1768, W. Semple states, that "all the weavers in the town and suburbs formed themselves under a committee, parading through the town in grand procession, with captains and all other inferior officers, in form of a regiment of soldiers, only not in the military dress, and under a head captain in lieu of a colonel. Their brilliant appearance was equal to anything of the kind ever seen in Scotland. They have their procession once in three years." The Magistrates and Council also invariably celebrated the King's birth-day. On the previous night, a committee generally met in the Saracen's Head Inn, to make the punch to be used on the following day; and the expenses then incurred varied from 15s. to double that sum. The toast of the King's health, and sometimes others, were drunk, with great decorum, by the Magistrates and Council, on the stair head of the Tollbooth; and the glasses, after being emptied, were thrown among the assembled crowd below, as if to show they should never be degraded by any other sentiment. The tavern bill, on 4th June, 1794, was:—Port, 42 bottles, £5 10s.; porter, 5s.; sixty glasses, £1; twelve broken bottles, 2s.; ham and biscuits, £3 13s.; toddy, fifteen pints, £8; punch, twelve pints, £8; officers, 9s.;—in all, £25 19s. In 1796, the bill was £25 13s.; in 1799, £31 18s. 6d.

The intense loyalty of the inhabitants to the throne, was not displayed in the celebration only of the King's birth day, but was, at times, extended to that of his consort, the Queen. In January, 1795, "the birth day of Her Majesty Queen Charlotte was celebrated with great show of loyalty and attachment." Although the weather was exceedingly unfavourable, from a heavy fall of snow, the Royal Paisley Volunteers, in full uniform, with their flags displayed, were drawn up at the Cross at mid day, and the flank companies, having wheeled inwards, the whole, with great accuracy and precision, discharged three rounds, amidst a numerous assemblage of the inhabitants. In the afternoon, a number of the corps dined together, in honour of the auspicious day, when many patriotic toasts and sentiments were given. In the evening, there was an assembly in the Abercorn Inn, which was more numerous attended

and brilliant than any that had taken place for years past" (*Glasgow Mercury*).

The following are the prices of provisions in the last decade of this century :—

	S.	D.		S.	D.
Beef, per lb. of 22 ½ oz.,	0	5 ¼	Eggs, per dozen,	0	7
Mutton, do.,	0	6	Butter, per lb. of 22 ½ oz.,	0	10 ½
Lamb, do.,	0	6	Cheese, do.,	0	4
Veal, do.,	0	6 ½	Potatoes, per pk. of 37 lbs.,	0	7
A Turkey,	6	0	New Milk, per Scots pint,	0	2 ½
A Hen,	1	3	Butter Milk do.,	0	0 ½
A Chicken,	0	6	Whey, do.,	0	0 ¼
A Duck,	1	3			

The progress of the town during this century was both varied in kind and important in degree. At the commencement, the population was about 2200, in 1753 it was 4195, and by the close of the century it had rapidly risen to 24,324. In addition to the many new industries that had arisen, the old staple trade of handloom weaving had also vastly increased. While the handloom weavers at the beginning of the century numbered only about 87, by the end of 1782 they had increased to 4007.

The wealth and public spirit of the inhabitants in this century were manifested in many ways. They built eight churches to provide accommodation for the public worship of the inhabitants. The Municipal Buildings, Jail, and Steeple at the Cross, the Flesh Market and Shambles, the Old Bridge and Grammar School, were all rebuilt. The enterprising inhabitants likewise erected a new and commodious poorhouse, a new bridge over the river at Sneddon, another bridge over the river at the Abbey, new English and commercial schools, along with schools in Storie Street, Maxwellton, and Seedhills, and a new Town's Inn. But the most extraordinary progress made was in the erection of new dwelling-houses, in the latter half of the century, to meet the rapid increase of the population. It was in Sneddon district, about 1730, that the building of new dwelling-houses and loom-shops first commenced. Afterwards, as trade extended, there followed the rapid erection of many other houses in all parts of the town, to accommodate the great influx of workers from the surrounding counties, who were attracted to Paisley by its abundant and well-paid work.

In 1757, the Earl of Dundonald, following the example of the Magistrates and Town Council, commenced to feu ground adjoining the Abbey for building purposes. The advertisement in the *Glasgow Courant*, of 1757, announcing the selling of the first of these old Abbey lands, states that about four acres of the Abbey gardens, "very advantageously situated upon the river Cart, a little above the Old Bridge of Paisley," will be feued, by public roup, on the 27th January, 1757; and that "excellent materials for building will be

supplied from the houses and garden-walls of Paisley, where there is a vast quantity of hewn stones, which Lord Dundonald is to become bound to sell to the purchasers at a reasonable rate, to be specified in the articles of roup."

The ground here referred to included the gateway and road or avenue leading to "The Place of Paisley," and was the commencement of what was afterwards called Abbey Close. The tenement to the west of the gateway, was called the "Yett House." Before being acquired, about this time, by the Earl of Dundonald, it belonged to Robert Park. Adjoining thereto, on the south, was the tennis court, used by the Dundonald family. The removal of the ancient gateway to the Abbey, gave the place an entirely new appearance (*Statistical Account*, 1793, vol. vii., p. 95). Other great changes speedily followed. The Place of Paisley, which had hitherto been occupied, successively, by the Abbots, the Commendators, and by the Abercorn and Dundonald families, in whose times it had been the scene both of merriment and of misery, was now let out for the occupation of tradespeople.

In 1764, the Lordship of Paisley was re-purchased by the Earl of Abercorn, who, finding a great demand for ground to build upon, had the whole of the ancient large garden, orchard, and deer park, laid off in a regular plan for feuing. In 1778, a number of steadings were feued out for building upon; and within three years thereafter, eighty-one houses had been erected (*IV. Sample*, p. 291). The streets in the new plan were generally named from the different branches of the weaving trade in the town, and they continue to be so designed to the present time. The Earl of Abercorn appears to have been very sanguine of his ability to establish a new town on the east side of the river, opposite the old burgh, for he erected there, amidst other things, at great expense, an elegant and commodious public inn. The first tenant was Joseph Ritter; and the following is a copy of his advertisement, announcing the opening of the inn, on 13th October, 1783:—

"NEW INN OF PAISLEY.

"Joseph Ritter begs leave to inform the nobility, gentry, and the public in general, that he has taken that large and commodious inn, in Newtown of Paisley (just now built by the Earl of Abercorn), which is furnished and fitted up in the neatest and genteelest manner; and will be opened on Monday, the 13th current, for the reception of those who please to favour him with their company, where they may depend on the best usage, and every article charged on the most reasonable terms."

The prosperity of Paisley at this time was unbounded; and the following extract from the *Scots Magazine*, vol. xlii., December, 1786, shows that, in this light, it was at the time so viewed:—
"No town in the kingdom, or perhaps in Europe, has made such rapid progress in population and wealth as the town of Paisley.

In the year 1738, the inhabitants were only about 4000. These are now increased near sixfold, the inhabitants at present being not less than 22,000. The houses were formerly mean in their appearance, the streets narrow and dirty, and the people slovenly in their dress and manners. The houses are now mostly new and elegant; the streets spacious and well paved; the people gay and polite; and their servant maids more neatly dressed, with their caps, gauzes, and white stockings, than were formerly the citizens' wives. Some years ago it was reckoned indecent for even one of the better sort of inhabitants to be carried to their own door in a coach. When, therefore, any of them were conveyed from Glasgow in a stage or hackney coach, they ordered it always to stop at some little distance from the town, where they came out, in order to avoid the censure of their neighbours for their luxury. Now the case is altered; and not content with foreign accommodation, they have just now got from this town a hackney coach for themselves, the most elegant, perhaps, that has been made, and thought much superior to any other either here or in London. The new inn, lately built there by Lord Abercorn, will compare, either for the neatness of the outside or accommodation within, to anything of the kind in Britain. Formerly, they depended on Glasgow, in a great measure, for the support of their manufactures. They now do for themselves; and have of late set up a bank for the facility of their merchants. If they go on for twenty years more in the way they have done for twenty past, Paisley will be a much more considerable place than even Glasgow."

The following is an interesting and well-prepared statement relative to the trade of the town in 1789:—

Abstract of the Manufactures of Paisley, with their value, and the number employed in them in the year 1789.

MANUFACTURES.	EMPLOYMENTS IN THE MANUFACTURES.	NO. OF HANDS.	PRODUCE IN MONEY.
<i>Silk Gauze</i> ,.....	Weavers employed in this branch in Paisley,.....	5000	
	Winders, warpers, clippers, overseers, &c., employed,	5000	
		<hr/> 10,000	
	Value manufactured by every silk loom, £70 stg. per annum, at an average, is		£350,000 0 0
<i>Lawns</i> ,.....	Weavers employed in these branches,.....	2800	
<i>Cambrics</i> ,	Winders, warpers, clippers, overseers, bleachers, &c.,.....	1100	
<i>Thread Gauze and Muslins</i> .	Spinners of the yarn used in this manufacture,	7384	
	Makers of machinery, implements, heddles, &c., for silk and lawn,	800	
		<hr/> 12,084	
	1600 of those now employed in the muslin trade.		
	<i>Carried forward</i>		£350,000 0 0

	<i>Brought forward</i> ,	£350,000	0	0
	Value of the lawns, cambrics, and muslins manufactured, is.....	180,385	16	0
<i>White or Threads.</i>	Spinners, winders, bleachers, twisters, and drivers,.....	4800		
	Value of this manufacture amounts to	70,000	0	0
<i>Hard and Soft Soap and Candles.</i>	{ Value of these branches will amount to	48,000	0	0
<i>Incle Ribbon, Tanworks, &c.</i>				
	{ Value of these trades put together will be	12,000	0	0
	¹ Total yearly value of the manufactures of Paisley, <u>£660,385</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>	

¹ *Statistical Account*, 1793, vol. vii., p. 73.

CHAPTER XVI.

1800 TILL 1825.



THE period comprising the close of the last and the commencement of the present century, is memorable for the great scarcity and the consequent high price of provisions. The harvest of 1799 was a great failure; and during the following winter provisions of every kind rose to famine rates. It was a period of great hardship to all classes. Oatmeal, which was then the staff of life, was bad in quality. Many were under the necessity of travelling miles to obtain oatmeal and flour, and frequently the small quantity they managed to procure was almost worthless. "To assist in alleviating the sufferings of the poor, the Town Council of Paisley deemed it necessary to join the inhabitants in having public kitchens, and to enter into subscriptions for the relief of the poor at this season of scarcity and of expensive markets" (*Council Records*, 3rd February, 1800). Subscriptions were also commenced by the benevolent, who sympathised with the sufferings of the poor, "towards a fund for importing grain into the country" (*Council Records*, 28th February, 1800); and to aid this very laudable scheme the Council subscribed £200. The trades and other societies of the town, along with the more wealthy inhabitants, were likewise liberal contributors. The Merchants' Society, on 3rd February, "considering the present necessitous state of the poor, and that there is a fund now raising, by subscription, for their support, agree to contribute twenty guineas."

The importation of foreign grain, to meet the wants of the inhabitants, was a wise measure, for the quantity of meal and potatoes at this time in the hands of the farmers and dealers was very small. Parliament also adopted measures to encourage the importation of grain, and agreed to indemnify those who brought grain from the Mediterranean and America before the end of October, if, in consequence of a good harvest, it should decline in price. By many of the members of the House of Lords, a novel form of agreement was entered into, with the view of limiting the consumpt of bread. Every subscriber to that agreement became bound to limit the quantity of wheaten bread consumed in his family to one quartern loaf a week for each person.

Unfortunately for the country, the scanty crops of 1799 were followed, in 1800, by a harvest equally deficient, and this, of course, aggravated the distress of the working classes. Frequently the oatmeal brought to the market was very inferior in quality. In the

middle of August, the Magistrates confiscated three bolls of meal which were found, upon examination, to be of an unwholesome quality, and fined the exposor of it in five guineas for the benefit of the poor. The Council, in order to induce the farmers and dealers to bring potatoes into the town in greater quantities, resorted to the expedient of offering bounties. A premium was given "of £3 3s. to those who bring in the greatest quantity; £2 2s. to those who bring in the second greatest quantity; and £1 1s. to those who bring in the third largest quantity; and the same to continue for fourteen days" (*Council Records*, 26th August, 1800). How far this plan succeeded we have no means of knowing.

In consequence of some attempt at rioting by a few evil-disposed persons, the Magistrates, Lord-Lieutenant, and Sheriff, were, on 29th October, under the necessity of issuing the following proclamation:—"Whereas, in the morning of yesterday, several seditious and inflammatory notices were posted up in different parts of the town of Paisley, inciting the inhabitants to a meeting at five o'clock; and whereas a mob of riotous and disorderly persons did, in the evening of yesterday, assemble and commit many acts injurious to the persons and property of the peaceable inhabitants, we give this public intimation of our determination to suppress all riots, tumults, and illegal assemblies, and to carry into effect, by every means in our power, His Majesty's proclamation, dated 18th September, 1800. We hereby offer a reward of twenty guineas to any person or persons who will discover the writers, or those who posted up the said inflammatory notices; and any person or persons who will give information respecting the outrages already committed, shall be liberally rewarded by applying to the Town Clerk of the Town of Paisley. We further pledge ourselves to afford every encouragement to such persons as may supply the Town of Paisley with meal and other articles of provisions, and have adopted the necessary measures for their complete protection."

The demand for oatmeal was so great, and the supply so deficient, that in the month of November, when the dearth was most severe, it rose to 4s. and 5s. per peck, the rate before the dearth being only about 1s. a peck. When a shopkeeper got a supply of meal or potatoes, a crowd of a hundred or two immediately surrounded the shop to purchase them. The distress among the working classes still continuing, the Council agreed "to contribute £40 towards carrying on the public kitchens, for behoof of the poor of the town" (*Council Records*, 27th November, 1800), and the Merchants' Society again subscribed twenty guineas. At the same meeting, the Council resolved "to convene the inhabitants of the town, to consider the propriety of a subscription for behoof of the poor of the town in this time of scarcity." On 1st December following, they agreed "to subscribe £200 for importing foreign grain to the town, for the relief of the inhabitants, providing that such a measure be countenanced by the principal inhabitants of the town by their subscriptions." Although we have been unable to

discover any records showing what was done, yet we have no doubt, looking to the general public spirit of the inhabitants, they would cordially support the Council in their philanthropic efforts.¹

In consequence of the high price of provisions, and the severe pressure upon the poorer classes, Parliament was called together as early as November. The question of remedial measures was at once referred to select committees in both houses. The Commons' committee recommended that the King should be empowered to prohibit, by orders in Council, the export of provisions; that there should be a bounty on the importation of certain articles; the prohibition, for a limited time, of the use of corn in the distilling of spirits, or in the making of starch; and the prohibition of bread made solely from the fine flour of wheat. All these proposals, with some others, were at once passed into a law.

A very great deal of excitement prevailed at that time among a certain class of the community, in consequence of a belief that some of the dealers in provisions withheld them from sale, in order to obtain higher prices afterwards. Great support was given to this supposition, by the fact that the discontented discovered some cellars, in the buildings adjoining the Abbey Church, to be filled with good potatoes. When this became known, a vast crowd, consisting mostly of women, boys, and girls, assembled at the cellars, all provided with pocks or bags. The potato stores were broken open, and immediately the bags were filled with potatoes, and carried off by the mob. In the meantime, the conduct of the rioters became known to the Magistrates, who appeared on the scene with a corps of volunteers, then quartered in the town, but not till all the potatoes had been carried away.² It was alleged that many of the volunteers, instead of trying to stop the pillage by the mob, went so far as to add to it themselves. Shortly afterwards, a caricature was exhibited in the shop windows, representing a volunteer with a well-filled bag of potatoes on his back, calling to the crowd to keep out of his way, as he was hurrying home for his gun (*The Burnlip*, by Thomas Dick, p. 100). The inhabitants of Paisley, however, suffered less from the dearth than those of many other towns. After the stagnation of trade, in 1793, the fancy muslin trade had been prosperous; the work was light, and the working classes earned good wages. This epoch has since been known among all classes in the country, even to the present day, as "the year of the great dearth." In the course of a year or two provisions, in consequence of better harvests, became reduced in price.

¹ "For the benefit of the poor, there will be dances in the Abercorn Arms Inn, on Monday evening, the 16th February, 1801, to begin at eight o'clock. Tickets, five shillings each" (*Glasgow Courier*).

² *Parkhill's Ten Years' Experience of a Bethrel's Life*, p. 98. Parkhill lived at this time in Paisley. In Glasgow, at the same period, the poorer inhabitants gathered together in the meal market, at the foot of Montrose Street, and tumultuously proceeded to effect their own relief (*Chronicles of St. Mungo*, p. 266).

In the first week of September, 1801, an earthquake was felt very generally over the country. In some houses in Glasgow and neighbourhood, the bells rang and the windows shook. In Paisley and Hamilton, it was felt at nearly the same moment. At Renfrew, a weaver standing in his workshop felt it most distinctly. The heddles of his loom were set in motion by it, which led him to believe that a rat had got upon his web. At Renfield house, in the neighbourhood, six ladies, in different apartments, felt as if their bedsteads had been shaken by some person; and a negro in the stable had the same impression as he had frequently experienced from a similar cause in the West Indies. It was also distinctly felt in Edinburgh, Leith, and neighbourhood. It continued two or three seconds. It was preceded by a rumbling, rushing, hollow noise from the ground. It had a tremulous, undulating motion, somewhat resembling the waves of the sea. Beds, tables, chairs, &c., shook violently in some houses. Several persons who felt it had a very disagreeable sensation, attended with headache (*Glasgow Courier*, 10th September, 1801).

"Hutcheson's Charity School" was founded and endowed by Margaret Hutcheson, who was born in the Parish of Govan. Her husband, John Park, was born in the Parish of Houston. They both, however, resided in Paisley the greater part of their lifetime. Her brother, James Hutcheson, was a tailor to trade, who went in early life to St. John's, Antigua, and as a merchant-tailor accumulated a considerable fortune. At his death, Margaret Hutcheson succeeded to upwards of £20,000. Her husband at this time was working in Paisley as a daily labourer. In their altered position they acted with great prudence, and were eminently kind to the poor, and very charitable in assisting many of their acquaintances and relations with money to relieve their wants. Their donations were numerous. To the Ladies' Hospital, £100; to the Kirk Session of Paisley, £100; to the Magistrates and Council, £50, the interest being meant to support a Public Dispensary; to the same body, £200, the interest to be applied to the support of some old people residing in Paisley of the name of Park or Hutcheson; to the same body, £50, to promote the institution of a Sunday School; and £20 to the Kirk Session of Houston. All the rest of their fortune was bequeathed amongst a great number of legatees, except the sum of £1500, "as a fund for erecting, establishing, and endowing a Charity School in the town of Paisley, to be called Hutcheson's Charity School, for the end and purpose of instructing poor orphans or the children of poor parents residing in the town of Paisley or town parishes thereof, who shall be presented and admitted by the Patrons or Governors of said charity aftermentioned, in reading English, and in the principles of the Christian religion, and also in writing and the common rules of arithmetic in case the said governors shall judge this branch of education expedient, and that a proper teacher be got for both of these branches" (*Margaret Hutcheson's Deed*

of Settlement, dated 22nd August, 1793. It was registered in the Commissary Court books of Glasgow, 22nd March, 1795). The gift was for the time being vested in the Magistrates and Treasurer of the town, the governor of the Town's Hospital, the Deacon or Boxmaster of the Old Society of Weavers, the preses or the Boxmaster of the Society of Merchants, and one member from each of the three Kirk Sessions of the town parishes, to be chosen annually, by the several sessions, as governors, directors, patrons, and managers of said Charity Institution—any five of whom to be a quorum. Full and ample powers of every kind were given to them in the management of the trust.

Margaret Hutcheson died 12th February, 1795, aged 70 years; and her husband died 14th April, 1797, upwards of 70 years of age. They were interred on the west side of the High Church Burying Ground, where, during their lives, a stone had been erected with this inscription:—"This is the burying place of John Park and Margaret Hutcheson, his wife, 1789."

"By faith a man enjoys his Maker;
By love his neighbours,
And by contentment himself.
Remember, man, as thou go'st by,
As thou art now, so once was I;
As I am now, so thou must be;
Therefore, prepare to follow me."

The first meeting of the directors,—for that was the designation they afterwards assumed,—was held on 6th August, 1802, at which Mr. James Carlile, one of the executors under Margaret Hutcheson's deed of settlement, was elected to be preses, and Mr. James Walkinshaw, writer, to be clerk. At a meeting held on 11th January, 1804, Bailie Moody was elected preses, Mr. Carlile treasurer, which situation he held till his death in 1835, and John Boyle clerk. At this meeting "the directors agreed first to lease a place for a school-room, and also to advertise for a teacher, to be allowed £40 of yearly salary with a free school, and declared it to be their intention to build a house for a school-house, and dwelling-house for the master at some future period." At the following meeting, held on 6th March, they agreed to take from Mrs Sharp a room in High Street, to be used as their first school, for one year, from Whitsunday next, at £4; and also approved of a set of rules relating to management, which they ordered to be printed. On 13th March, they elected Mr. Shields, teacher, Rutherglen, to be their first master, and appointed a committee for the admission of children, another for accounts, and a third for education. When the School was opened on 4th June, 1804, there were 44 children admitted to the day school, and 40 admitted to the evening school on the following night. The teacher was appointed to act as clerk to the directors, an arrangement that exists at the present time. The directors leased the school-room in the west or wee steeple, which had formerly

been the Town's English School, at an annual rent of £8 8s., and the scholars removed thither at Whitsunday, 1805. When the Council, in 1807, offered to sell this steeple by public roup, the directors offered to give £500 for it, but it was sold at a much higher sum. In January following "the proprietors of the Baptist meeting-house, in Penn Road," offered to let it to the directors, who agreed to take it for their school-house, the annual rent being £13 10s. In 1811, Mr. Shields, who had on several occasions received a gratuity of £5, fell into bad health, resigned, and the directors elected Mr. Peter M'Laren as his successor. The number of scholars in the day-school varied from 40 to 80, and in 1811 it reached 109. The night-school was not very well attended, for the greatest number of scholars was about 50.

In March, 1812, Mr. Walter Carswell died, and left by his deed of settlement the very helpful sum of £500 to the Institution, "but under the express provision and declaration that the managers and directors of the said Institution Fund, hereby appropriated therefor, shall be bound in admitting children to the benefit thereof, to give decided preference to all such children bearing the name of Carswell and applying therefor. The number never exceeding ten." On 30th October, 1812, Mr. William M'Ewen, teacher at Dalswinton, in the Parish of Kirkmahoe, was elected to succeed Mr. Peter M'Laren, at a salary of £60. Mr. Carlile, the treasurer, at this time added £50 to the funds. "The thanks of the directors were given for his generous gift." Mr. M'Ewen having also fallen into ill health, retired; and on 7th May, 1816, Mr. John Armour, student of divinity, was appointed, at the same salary as his predecessor. In October, 1818, the teacher informed the directors "that he usually meets on the evening of the Lord's day, for an hour and a half, with advanced scholars, who either are or have been in the school, for religious instruction, and that at that time there were between twenty and thirty attending." In this month the directors bought from C. J. F. Orr, Esq., a piece of ground, extending from "Pen Lane," fifty feet eastward, along Oakshaw Street, for £100, on which to erect a school-house. On 20th October, 1819, the funds of the Institution stood as follows:—

Lent to the Town Council,	...	...	£2070	0	0
Lodged in Union Bank,	...	...	20	0	0
Ground for a School,	...	...	100	0	0
Cash on hand,	...	...	9	1	8
In all,			£2199	1	8

On 23d October, 1820, the directors agreed that they should erect a commodious school-house, on the ground they had recently purchased, capable of accommodating 250 scholars.

On 2nd November, 1820, it was intimated to the directors "that the late Hugh Thomson, Esq., had by his Deed of Settlement

bequeathed to them £200, for the more effectually promoting and carrying into effect the ends and designs of the Institution."

On the estimates being opened for the erection of the school-house, it was found that the offers of Alex. Davidson and Thomas Miller for the mason-work were alike, £160. The directors left it to the offerers to settle among themselves who should do the work. William & Robert Walker's offer of £285 was accepted for the wright, smith, slater, plumber, and plaster-work. In October, 1821, the directors bought for £32, a piece of ground on the south side of that which they had already purchased. The new school-house being finished, was first occupied in March, 1822, and the directors "authorised the treasurer to pay Mr. Vallance £12 12s. for his great trouble in making out plans and specifications, and in superintending the building." The attendance of day scholars, for several years prior to the opening of the new school, was about 100; and in the night school the number varied considerably. In 1816, the attendance at one time was as low as 34, but in 1819 it rose to 102. The teachers appointed in succession after this were, Mr. John Reid, on 4th April, 1827;¹ Mr. James Shaw Brown, on 18th August, 1831;² Mr. Neil Livingston, on 21st Oct., 1834; Mr. Matthew Adam, on 1st December, 1835; Mr. John Meikleham, in 1837; Mr. Joseph Robertson, on 4th April, 1838; Mr. John Campbell, on 27th January, 1847. Mr. Campbell continued in office till November, 1882, a period of 35 years, when he resigned. The school prospered under his good management, and the directors in the minute of their meeting of 30th November, 1882, "resolved to record an expression of their deep regret at receiving Mr. Campbell's resignation, their thanks for his long and faithful services, and their good wishes for his future welfare." The clerk was instructed to send to Mr. Campbell an excerpt of this minute. "Mr. John Davidson was appointed Mr. Campbell's successor on 20th April, 1883. The school was always full of scholars during Mr. Campbell's tenure of office, having about 150 during the day, and at the night class about 70." In 1835, Mr. James Carlile, who was one of the executors of Margaret Hutcheson, died. He discharged the duties of treasurer gratuitously from the opening of the school till his death. The directors recorded in their minutes their high appreciation of Mr. Carlile's work. "To his economical and faithful management of the trust, this establishment owes much of its prosperity and success. He watched its progress with the assiduity and affection of a parent; and the successive teachers and pupils ever found in him a sincere and liberal friend."

In 1866 the pupils attending the John Neilson Institution did a very handsome thing for the benefit of the scholars of Hutcheson's Charity School. They gave a Musical Demonstration in the Free Middle Church, on 29th June in that year, and the proceeds, which amounted to £30, were given in articles of clothing as prizes, to

¹ Mr. Reid was afterwards master of the Town's English School.

² Mr. Brown was appointed governor of the Town's Hospital.

such of the pupils as were selected, after a competitive examination, as having made the greatest progress in their lessons. In this way prizes in clothing were given to twelve girls and thirteen boys.

On 24th January, 1883, the following regulations were adopted by the directors in the management of the Institution :—

1st.—“ That henceforth no children be admitted to the benefit of the ‘ charity ’ who are under five or over seven years of age, except in special circumstances, and such as may be sent by the Parochial Board. 2nd.—That the salary of the teacher commence at this date at £65 per annum. 3rd.—That the hours of teaching be from 9.30 a.m. till 12; and from 1 till 3.30 p.m.; in the evening, from 7 till 9 o’clock; and that there be no teaching on Saturday. 4th.—That the summer holidays be limited to one calendar month, and be taken in the month of August. 5th.—That the regulation to give six weeks’ notice of motion, be altered to one month’s notice. 6th.—That the corporal punishment of the children be limited to stripes with tawse only on the palms of the hands.”

The following shows the number of scholars that attended during the years stated :—

Scholars in day class, -	1880-1, 240	In 1881-2, 235
Left School for work, -	50	40
Removals, - - -	21	24
To attend other Schools, -	16	14
Ill health, - - -	2	0
Deaths, - - - -	1	2
	—90	—80

Leaving on roll, August, 1801,—86 boys and 64 girls, - 150

Leaving on roll, August, 1882,—93 boys and 62 girls, - 155

Attendance day class, Dec., 1882, Boys, 96; Girls, 64=160. Average, 135
 „ evening class, „ Boys, 42; Girls, 6=48. Average, 37

State of the Funds for the Year ending November, 1880:—

INCOME.

Interest,	£79 9 0
Books Sold,	3 5 0
Burgh Parochial Board,	10 0 0
Rent for use of School-room,	1 0 0
Rent from Property,	44 12 4
Excess of expenditure,	25 5 2
	<u>£163 11 6</u>

EXPENDITURE.

Teacher’s Salary,... ..	£85 0 0
Repairs,	44 12 1
General Charges,	33 19 5
	<u>£163 11 6</u>

ASSETS.

Burgh Annuity Fund, ...	...	...	...	£1483	0	0
Water Commissioners, ...	...	...	...	500	0	0
National Security Savings Bank, ...	...	...	...	52	10	0
House Property, Oakshaw Street, ...	...	...	...	268	4	7

£2303 14 7

LIST OF PRESIDENTS.

1802, Mr. James Carlile; 1804, Bailie A. Moody; 1804, Bailie John Orr; 1806, Bailie Wm. Stow; 1807, Bailie Archd. Jamieson; 1808, Mr. Wm. Fulton; 1809, Bailie Jamieson; 1810, Mr. Adam Kerr; 1811, Bailie Davidson; 1812, Bailie Alex. Macalister; 1813, Bailie M'Lean; 1817, Provost Carlile; 1818, Bailie Vallance; 1819, Bailie Farquharson; 1820, Provost Carlile; 1824, Provost Farquharson; 1826, Bailie Gilmour; 1827, Provost Farquharson; 1829, Provost Boyd; 1830, Provost Gilmour; 1832, Bailie Buchanan; 1833, Mr. J. Carlile; 1834, Provost Hardie; 1837, Bailie Hart; 1839, Mr. James Forbes; 1840, Provost Bisset; 1843, Bailie Murray; 1844, Provost Murray; 1851, Provost Philips; 1853, Provost Macfarlane; 1856, Provost Robert Brown; 1859, Provost Pollock; 1862, Provost Campbell; 1865, Provost Macfarlane; 1869, Provost Murray; 1879, Provost M'Kean; 1882, Provost Clark.

On 24th June, 1803, the Faculty of Procurators before the Courts of Paisley and Renfrewshire was incorporated by 'Royal Charter.' The Office-bearers consisted of a Dean, Treasurer and Clerk, three Councillors, three Examinators, and a Librarian. They also formed a Society for the Mutual Assurance of their Widows. They had also a Library which consisted mostly of law books. This society continued till 1883, when the members obtained an Act of Parliament empowering them to have it dissolved and the funds divided amongst themselves, after setting apart sufficient money to meet the annual alimnt to the widows.

About the close of last century, the Magistrates and Council commenced to forward addresses to the King and the Houses of Parliament on matters relating to the public affairs of the nation. As time went on, this practice increased in frequency. An attempt was made to shoot the King while in the theatre; and the Council, on 19th May, 1800, unanimously agreed "to address His Majesty on his escape from being assassinated by a pistol fired at him." When the treaty of peace with the French nation was finally concluded at Amiens, on 27th March, 1802, the Council, on the 17th May following, voted an address to His Majesty, "offering their tribute of gratitude, in rendering to the nation the inestimable blessings of peace."¹ On 28th March, 1803, the Council voted an

¹ The preliminary articles of peace between Great Britain, Holland, France, and Spain, were signed in London by Lord Hawkesbury and Mr. Otto, on the

address "to His Majesty, on his fortunate escape from the conspiracy of Col. Despard and his associates."

When the peace of Amiens was ratified, the officers of the Paisley Volunteers, and the Town Council, must have fully believed that it was to be a solid and permanent one. They did not, however, go the length of turning their swords into pruning hooks; but they must have satisfied themselves that the services of the Volunteers, along with their flags, were no longer to be required. About two months after the signing of that treaty, the officers of the Volunteers, acting under that conviction, presented to the Council the standards belonging to the corps, as the following interesting minute, dated 17th May, 1802, in the Council records, plainly shows:—"The standards of the corps of Royal Paisley Volunteers having been deposited in trust by the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel M'Kerrell, in the hands of the Magistrates, the meeting appoint them to be lodged in the Council Chamber, to be preserved in sacred trust, as a memorial of the loyalty and patriotism of the Town of Paisley in times of unparalleled danger, and recommend a display of them on the anniversary of His Majesty's birth, and other proper public occasions; and they ordain this measure to be engrossed on their records, and to be officially communicated to Lieutenant-Colonel M'Kerrell."

The peace of Amiens was of very short duration. On the renewal of the war between France and England, Napoleon Buonaparte, First Consul of the Republic, devoted all his energies to a scheme of the most gigantic proportions for the invasion of England. A camp, consisting of upwards of 300,000 men, was planted on the heights of Boulogne, in sight of the English shores; and above 50,000 additional troops, ready for action, were placed along the coast of France, in a cordon stretching from Brest to Antwerp. It was in this exciting period that the Paisley Town Council, on 8th July, 1803, unanimously resolved to address the King on the state of the national affairs. This able and patriotic address, which was transmitted to Mr. Macdowall, M.P., for presentation, runs as follows:—"Most Gracious Sovereign,—We, your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Magistrates and Town Council of Paisley, address your Majesty, with unfeigned assurance of affection for your Majesty's person, and of attachment to your Majesty's family and government. At a period when the nation is justly roused in expressing indignation at the malignant hostility to the British empire evinced by the French nation and their domineering and arrogant ruler, we should be unjust to our feelings, and unworthy of the protection of that happy constitution

part of England and France, 1st October, 1801. A toast by Mr. John Love, at a social meeting, on the evening of the illumination, in Paisley, at that event, was:—

"Here's peace and plenty, and no killing;
Success to trade, and meal a shilling."

(*Paisley Repository* of 1812, part ii., p. 4.)

under which we live, were we to refrain from transmitting to your Majesty our sentiments upon this important occasion. We feel and experience, that upon the preservation of our constitution our happiness and independence do wholly depend; and we humbly beg leave to assure your Majesty that no exertions shall be wanting upon our part which may tend to the support of your Majesty's crown and government, and the honour of your family, and the rights and safety of the nation. Signed by our chief magistrate, in our name and by our appointment, and sealed with the seal of our burgh, this 8th day of July, 1803."

The British people were in no way dismayed by this threatened attack of the French. National feeling, on the contrary, was completely aroused; and all sections of the people resolved, as one man, to repel the invaders should they attempt to put a foot upon our shores. The navy and regular army were strengthened and increased; but above all, there was again awakened the strong national spirit that showed itself in volunteering. Men of all classes came eagerly forward to be enrolled and to be armed; those unable to act in person contributing money. The inhabitants of Paisley were not behind-hand in showing how strongly they were imbued with this warlike impulse. The Magistrates of Paisley, with the view of eliciting the opinion and feelings of the inhabitants regarding the establishment of Volunteer corps, resolved on holding a public meeting, and circulated an advertisement, of which the following is a copy:—

"DEFENCE OF THE TOWN OF PAISLEY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

"The Magistrates of Paisley hereby give notice, that a meeting of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood is to be held within the Laigh Church, upon Friday, the 29th day of June current, at twelve o'clock noon, in order to take into consideration the raising and forming of a corps of Infantry for the defence of the Town of Paisley and neighbourhood, in terms of an act passed in the present session of Parliament, entitled, 'an act to enable His Majesty more effectually to provide for the defence and security of the realm during the present war, &c.'

"JOHN ORR,

"Eldest Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant."

The result of this meeting was, that within a few days a Volunteer Corps was raised of about one thousand strong, under the command of Mr. William M'Kerrell. Several gentlemen afterwards, influenced greatly by personal considerations, urged the Magistrates to give their countenance to the forming of another corps. This request was complied with, and they were called the "gentle Volunteers."

At a meeting of Council held on the 1st August in this year, the Magistrates reported "that many respectable inhabitants had suggested to them the propriety of raising a Corps of Volunteers to serve without pay." The Council highly approved of the proposal, but agreed to delay the taking of any active measures till the Act

of Parliament relating to the general defence of the country was received. On the 9th of the same month they unanimously adopted the following resolutions.

“CORPS OF VOLUNTEERS TO BE RAISED.

“The Magistrates and Council, induced by a sense of duty and patriotism, in these perilous and critical times, agreed to make an offer to the Government to raise a Corps of Volunteers, and came to the following resolutions on the subject :—

Resolve 1st.—To offer a Corps of Volunteers to serve in terms, on the conditions specified by Lord Cobart's circular-letter to Lord Lieutenants of counties, of 3rd August, 1803.

2nd.—Government allowance to be applied solely for adjutant, drill-sergeants, drums and fifes, and other contingencies.

3rd.—The uniform to be provided by every gentleman in the corps at his own expense, as it may be afterwards agreed on.

4th.—The officers to be recommended to the Lord Lieutenant by the magistrates and town council.

5th.—Messrs. Walter Robertson, Robert Barclay, Robert M'Lean, William Jamieson, and Alexander M'Alister, are appointed a committee, along with the magistrates, to take the proper actions for procuring subscriptions, publishing terms, and arranging measures necessary for the establishment of the corps.”

Two days afterwards “the Magistrates reported to the Council the conversation they had had this day with Messrs. Twigg, James Orr, John Motherwell, and other gentlemen deputed to wait upon them by the subscribers for a Corps of Volunteers, from which it appeared that the intending members of said corps were determined to abide by their resolution of recommending their own officers.” The Council resolved not to deviate from their resolutions of last meeting, so far at least as regards the recommendation of the commanding officer and captains of companies ; but with the view of preventing any discord on this point, they are willing to submit to the choice of the members of the corps a list of gentlemen all of whom they consider to be well qualified to hold commissions, and from whom they may select such a number as may be found to be necessary for commanding the corps in the departments of commanding officers and captains,. Thereafter the following list was voted by the council :—

“The commandant, Robert Fulton, Esq., of Hartfield. For captains, Messrs. John Pollock, Wm. Stewart, John Davidson Wm. Twigg, Wm. Jamieson, Robert Orr, Thos. Bissland, John Motherwell, James Sym, Thos. Lowndes, Robert M'Lean, James Whyte and Robert Smith. The other field officers under Mr. Fulton, if any are requisite, are allowed to be nominated from the above list of captains ; and so soon as the corps shall be formed into companies, the subalterns for each company to be recommended by the individuals comprising these companies.”

The suggestions of the council regarding the appointment of the officers, it appears, were not altogether approved of by the gentlemen who proposed to raise the independent corps of volunteers; but these reported to the council on the 15th of that month, "that they had begun to take enrolments for having corps to be commanded by Robert Fulton, Esq., of Hartfield, to whom they had recommended Messrs. John Pollock, William Stewart, John Davidson, Alex. Campbell, Wm. Jamieson and Robert Smith, as proper persons to be appointed captains of companies." The council "expressed their approbation of these proceedings, and recommended the adoption of every prudent and effectual measure for completing the corps." Three days afterwards, another meeting of council was held, to consider "the propriety of subscribing towards the expense of clothing for the corps of volunteers;" but as this motion related to cash matters, it was deferred to next meeting, which was held on the following day, when they, "with one dissenting, voted £50 for that purpose."¹ In the County of Renfrew the same enthusiastic feeling prevailed. At a meeting of deputy-lieutenants, landed proprietors, and magistrates of towns, held at Paisley, on 19th November, 1803, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Mr. Wm. Macdowall of Garthland, presided, and referred to the "loyal spirit and patriotism that had induced so great a number of volunteers to offer their services in every parish in the county, and the zeal and perseverance which those who had been selected in obedience to His Majesty's commands had uniformly manifested, by the regular attendance at exercise and constant attention to discipline, and represented the importance of supplying the Volunteers of Renfrewshire with comfortable clothing and other necessities at this momentous crisis, when there was every reason to expect they would be called out to actual service." The meeting "after a full discussion of the subject, and the examination of an estimate laid before them by the Lord Lieutenant, unanimously resolved to assess themselves at the rate of one shilling for each pound scots of their valued rent, to be paid in two years by instalments, for providing in aid of the allowances granted by government, clothing and such other necessities as may be deemed useful to the volunteers of the county."

Sir Walter Scott, in his admirable work, *The Antiquary* (vol. iii., p. 333; First edition), appropriately expresses the enthusiasm which prevailed at this time when he makes Bailie Littlejohn, of an earlier period, exclaim, when billets were wanted in Fairport for the volunteer corps and their horses, "let us take the horses into our wash-houses and the men into our parlour, share our supper with the one and our forage with the other. We have made ourselves wealthy under a free and paternal government, and now is the time

¹ The officers of the Volunteer Corps leased for drill exercise the field formerly used by them, from the Town Council, at an annual rent of £41. That field is now part of the site of the present coal depot, belonging to the Caledonian Railway Coy., in Underwood Street, and of the timber-yard and works of Messrs. John Young & Co.

to show we know its value." Before the end of this summer, upwards of 300,000 volunteers had been accepted and enrolled throughout the country, and of these Renfrewshire supplied 2701 infantry. John Parkhill, already referred to as writing under the *nom de plume* of Arthur Sneddon, joined the volunteers, and says regarding them:—"Two regiments of volunteers had been raised, one about a thousand strong, by Mr. William M. Kerrell; and another, the second regiment, nearly three hundred strong, was raised under the auspices of the magistrates and council. This second regiment bought their own clothes, which consisted of a scarlet coat with yellow facings, white small clothes, and black gaiters.¹ The cap was of the sugar loaf pattern, high in the crown, with two gold plated chains which hung in festoon style from the top. The whole dress was most becoming, and the regiment had a very smart appearance, carrying a number of rather old fellows in the ranks, which precluded the possibility of having a very good line. The colonel was Robert Fulton, Esq., of Hartfield. Mr. Campbell, the Sheriff, was major. The Sheriff at that time was newly off the irons at Edinburgh, about twenty-seven years of age, and altogether a sprightly young fellow. The captains were Mr. Twigg, Robert Orr, of Lylesland; Mr. John Pollock, of Maxwellton; and Bailie Davidson. . . . I was also a member of the above second regiment, and obtained a tolerable knowledge of military tactics. Each of the regiments had occasional meetings in the event of a victory or an illumination. I was, of course, also initiated in everything connected with local and social life. In addition to this, the regiment was on permanent duty for a fortnight. And in looking back, I am of opinion that this was the happiest period of my life. Our first fortnight of permanent duty was in Paisley. This took place in midsummer. The weather was fine; and our worthy old colonel was a very considerate man, and did not fatigue us with severe drill. We went, however, through all the movements of a regular regiment, even to the receiving of the Tommy. Next year we went to Greenock, marching sixteen miles. This was also in midsummer. We were billeted up and down Greenock. Our parade ground was the square; but our field for drill was nearly half a mile from the town. To it we marched every forenoon, accompanied by a large concourse of boys and girls, as well as grown-up people; our excellent band being a great inducement for this promiscuous following. At the evening parade, on the square, we had an equally good attendance; and on Sunday it was still larger. The regiment, when under parade there, owing to the small extent of the ground, had to form a hollow square; and within the same the whole *élite* of the town favoured us with their presence. Our famous band was the great attraction; here, for upwards of an hour, they performed to the admiring crowd.

¹ They had an excellent band, of which Duncan Henderson was the leader. R. A. Smith was also a member of the band.

The tunes were chiefly the most celebrated ; but I must acknowledge that, with a few exceptions, they were of a pathetic character. 'The Yellow Hair'd Laddie,' 'The Bush aboon Traquair,' 'The Broom o' the Cowden Knowes,' 'Logie o' Buchan,' and 'The Flowers of the Forest,' were amongst the favourites. We generally finished with 'The Wife that had the Wee Pickle Tow' which unfortunately took fire. We had a very pleasant time of it. The war was at the hottest ; and the merchant vessels that had to come from or go to a distance, had, for safety, to be in fleets, with a frigate or two as a guard or convoy. At this time two or three fleets, of upwards of twenty large vessels each, came to Greenock and Port-Glasgow. They were from the West Indies, and loaded with rum and sugar. They had very rich cargoes ; and the rum which they brought was largely participated in by us, the military defenders of the empire. Greenock, during the period of the fleet arrivals, was quite in a state of carnival, and fraternised with us in the kindest manner. After enjoying ourselves well in this expedition, our term of duty expired, and the day at length came for us to return home. Our arrangements in regard to baggage waggons and the other necessities of the march, were upon a style of military greatness of a most imposing character. We were to start early in the morning ; but there were so many farewells to take, that it was nine o'clock before we could get gathered together. I was put on the baggage guard ; and at last the band struck up "And from sweet Barr we parted," and so we were off with a convoy of some thousands. It was a great difficulty for us to keep the stragglers in order. The rum had been very generally distributed, and of course military discipline was greatly despised. Home at length we came, which finished our second term of permanent duty. During this year we were reviewed, down at Walkinshaw, by General the Earl of Moira and Brigadier-General Elphinston. This was the greatest field-day we ever had during our servitude. The whole volunteers in the county were brigaded together, and I suppose they amounted to nearly 5000 men. It was a brilliant day, and all the beauty and fashion of the surrounding country were present. The public works were stopped, and it was a general and joyous holiday to all classes. 'Loudon's Bonnie Woods and Braes' was resounding from all quarters. Next year our permanent duty was performed in Saltcoats ; it was in midsummer also, and the march was rather longer than to Greenock, but the pleasure and the weather were much more in accordance with our tastes. We left Paisley at seven o'clock in the morning, and had a great following ; Saltcoats being a favourite watering-place for Paisley. About a mile beyond Beith, we had a picnic breakfast in a large field. There was abundance of bread and cheese, and plenty of porter (London and Scotch) to wash them down. After resting an hour, we started, and reached Saltcoats in the afternoon. Here billets were ready for us. Our parade-ground was in the main street, and our drill about half a mile in the country. The weather was particularly fine, and our proximity to the sea made

everything delightful. There was not so much rum here as in Greenock; but to make amends, we had plenty of milk. The people and we were very friendly, and we were truly sorry to part with them. This method was well calculated to make volunteering popular; and all those engaged in it held it ever afterwards in happy remembrance" (*Arthur Sneddon*, p. 37).

Such was the jovial and happy life which, according to one of their own number, the volunteers led. Although the war on the Continent of Europe continued, and the volunteer scheme remained in force, yet the government gradually began to give the greatest encouragement to the militia, so as to increase their number and improve their efficiency. Volunteering had the effect of unsettling the minds of those who were closely engaged in business; and that, along with other causes, induced the government to fill, by ballot, the ranks of the militia, as the more reliable nursery for the regular army. The act to raise and establish a militia force in Scotland, was passed on 26th June, 1802; and every person from eighteen to forty-five years of age, who did not come under the exemptions specified in the act, was enrolled and made liable to serve. On 10th September following, the articles and rules of the Paisley Militia Society were approved of by the Magistrates. The objects this society had in view were very commendable, and were afterwards of essential service to the inhabitants. The society was divided into eight sections, each consisting of not less than sixty members liable to be enrolled under the militia act, and desirous of being protected from the consequences of that act. Those subscribing the articles before 24th September had to pay 5s., and 5s. on till 15th October; and those who joined after the latter date had to pay 11s. Members balloted were not entitled to protection till they procured sufficient caution, or paid £1 1s. into the funds as a pledge for future payments for five years. The committee in each section was empowered to provide substitutes for all members balloted; and when such could not be found, to pay the penalty prescribed by Act of Parliament. Afterwards, several societies of this kind were formed in the town; but from the jarring interests that prevailed among so many, they were all dissolved, and one society, called the Paisley Militia Society, was formed in their place. In 1817, the rules were altered to meet the amended acts passed between 1802 and 1817, and they were published in pamphlet form in 1821.

The continuation of the war with France was the means of sustaining the military spirit of the nation; and the drilling and training of the volunteers and militia connected with Paisley were actively carried on. From a return, dated 12th November, 1806, we learn that the officers of the Paisley first regiment of volunteers were as follows:—Lieutenant-colonel commanding, William M'Kerrell; lieutenant-colonel, Robert Maxwell; major, John Bisset; captains, Robert Hart, Fulton M'Kerrell, William Bissland, John Snodgrass, and Oliver Jamieson; lieutenants, John Orr,

John Buchanan, Nathan Gibson, Gavin Maxwell, William Murray, William Giffen, William Stirling, Charles Downie, James Muir, Charles Fraser, Francis Martin, and Thomas Sharp; ensigns, John M'Lellan, Charles Peacock, Thomas Campbell, and James Campbell; adjutant, Campbell Snodgrass; chaplain, Rev. James Smith; surgeon, James Muir; assistant-surgeon, Robert M'Kechnie; quartermaster, Thomas Campbell.

The officers in the Paisley second regiment were as follows:—lieutenant-colonel, Robert Fulton; major, Alexander Campbell; captains, John Davidson, William Twigg, Robert Orr, and John Pollock; lieutenants, Alexander Macalister, John Motherwell, F. Orr, and John Bell; ensigns, Alexander Pollock, Hugh Vallance, and James Whyte; quartermaster, Andrew Dunn; surgeon, Robert Watt; assistant-surgeon, Thomas Richmond; paymaster, Hugh Vallance.

In 1807 and 1808, additional alarm was caused in this country by the continued successes of Napoleon, now Emperor of the French, who appeared to be making preparations for the invasion of Britain. It was resolved that additional preparations were necessary on the part of Britain; and Renfrewshire, always foremost, raised and embodied no less than three additional regiments, which were named respectively the First, Second, and Third Regiments of Renfrewshire Local Militia. They were commanded by lieutenant-colonels Boyd Alexander, William Mure of Caldwell, and William M'Kerrell. These regiments remained embodied till the close of the war.

At this period, the Magistrates and Town Council presented to His Majesty the King the following able and patriotic address:—“But while the times are difficult, and the contest most arduous, and while the nation must submit to privations hitherto unexperienced, we are very far from yielding to, or indulging, sentiments of despondency and despair. Our resources are still most ample; and there exists in the empire a native spirit of loyalty and subordination which, rightly directed, cannot fail, under the blessing of Providence, to secure us from the hostilities of our enemies and the systematic inveteracy of the general disturber of the nation. Satisfied, then, that the most vigorous measures are necessary to counteract the daring and ambitious designs of the foe, we humbly presume to assure your Majesty of our most cordial support and co-operation in every undertaking which is calculated to the safety of our country and to promote the prosperity and happiness of the people.”

Before the middle of this century the Renfrewshire Militia were disbanded; but in 1854 they were again, on account of the Russian war, embodied by Act of Parliament. They mustered for the first time on 25th January, 1855. The officers were—Sir J. M. Napier, Bart. of Milliken, colonel-commandant; Mr. William C. Bontine, major; Mr. James Lowndes and Mr. James Stewart, captains; Mr. F. R. Reid and Mr. Daniel Shaw-Stewart, lieu-

tenants ; and Mr. William Cunningham, ensign. On 4th January, in the following year, the Earl of Glasgow presented to the militia, in the Barracks Square, a stand of new colours ; and at this muster, colonel Sir J. M. Napier stated that, although the regiment had only been twelve months embodied, it had furnished three hundred men to the regular army and was still five hundred strong. The gallant colonel further intimated that Her Majesty, as a mark of her approbation of their good conduct, had been graciously pleased to call it the "Prince of Wales' Own." On the same evening the officers of the regiment gave a grand ball in the Abercorn Rooms, to a large and fashionable party, in honour of the presentation of the new colours.

The County Commissioners of Supply, as empowered by a recent Act of Parliament, agreed, at a meeting held on 23rd July, 1856, to provide stores for the arms and accoutrements of the militia when disembodied. The building was erected on a field which they bought at Williamsburgh, nearly opposite the barracks, at the end of a lane leading from the public road. It is plain and unpretentious, one storey in height, and so much secluded that we are sure one half of the inhabitants are not aware of the existence of such a public building. It consists of orderly and guard rooms, colonel and staff officers' rooms and kitchen, store room and armoury room, armoury shop, day or mess room, rooms for quartering the men, powder magazine, mustering yard, and other conveniences. About six hundred stand of fire arms, an equal number of bayonets, the cartridge boxes, the band instruments, and the clothes of the regiment, are accommodated therein. The building cost £2,350, including £225 for the price of the ground ; and when it was completed, the arms of the militia, which had been removed from the County Buildings to the Barracks, in October, 1831, for greater safety, were safely placed within its walls. This money was raised, by assessment, over the whole county,—the landward parts contributing £1,355 17s. ; Greenock, £496 11s. ; Paisley, £400 10s. ; Port-Glasgow, £71 17s. 6d. ; and Renfrew, £25 4s. 6d. The men generally muster for drill once a year on the moor at Irvine. The officers for 1883 were :—Hon. colonel, Sir J. M. Napier, Bart. ; lieutenant-colonel, Sir Archibald Campbell, Bart. ; majors, William Cuninghame and Alexander Boyd ; captains, Robert Anderson, G. L. Houstoun, A. C. D. Dick, M. D. Campbell, M. H. Shaw-Stewart, A. J. Blacket Ord, J. C. Cuninghame, and the Hon. T. H. A. E. Cochrane ; lieutenants, W. R. Shaw-Stewart, H. R. Wallace, W. G. Peareth, P. W. J. Alexander, D. C. Guthrie, C. H. Fenwick, C. W. E. Milborne Swinerton Pilkinton, and A. Murray ; captain and adjutant, H. G. Fallowfield ; quartermaster, Alexander Barr ; surgeon-major, Thomas Graham ; sergeant-major, William Pettigrew (warrant officer).

When the Honourable Spencer Perceval, Prime Minister, was assassinated in the lobby of the House of Commons by Bellingham,

on 11th May, 1812, the Magistrates and Council sent an address of condolence to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent. And on the declaration of peace, in 1814, they voted, on 10th May in that year, an address to the Prince Regent, expressing their loyalty, and rejoicing "in the happy prospect now afforded of a termination of the calamities of war and a speedy restoration of the royalty, liberty, and independence of those nations in Europe which had been long enthralled by lawless and tyrannic domination."

Hitherto we have frequently had occasion to narrate many interesting matters relating to the Tollbooth, which was now generally called the Jail. In this period the incidents connected with it were somewhat important, for one of them refers to its being taken down and built in another part of the town in connection with the County Buildings.

On 18th November, 1800, the Council fixed the yearly salary of the jailer at £20; and on the 20th December following, agreed that the fees to be exacted and regulations to be observed in the Tollbooth should be as follows:—

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1st. Every burgess incarcerated shall, during his confinement, pay for Jail fee for each night, | ... £0 0 2 |
| 2nd. Every person not a burgess, | ... 0 0 4 |
| 3rd. For every person imprisoned, by virtue of an act of warding, the jailer shall be paid by the incarcerator, | ... 0 1 0 |
| 4th. For every person imprisoned, in virtue of a written warrant from a Magistrate, a Justice of Peace or Sheriff, the jailer shall be paid by the incarcerator, | ... 0 1 2 |
| 5th. For every person imprisoned, by virtue of a caption, justiciary, or admiral warrant, the jailer shall be paid by the incarcerator, if the prisoner is a burgess, | ... 0 2 6 |
| 6th. If an unfreeman, | ... 0 5 0 |
| 7th. The jailer, on signing an attestation of a commitment, shall receive | ... 0 1 0 |
| 8th. And on delivery up of diligence to persons neglecting to require the same within eight days after the prisoner's liberation, he shall receive | ... 0 1 0 |
| But if the Procurator-Fiscal be concerned in any of the above diligences, the jailer shall receive nothing. | |
| 9th. The Town-Clerk shall be entitled for keeping the Records of each of the articles aforesaid, viz., Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 for every person incarcerated, and to be paid to him by the jailer as usual, and the warrants to be delivered by the jailer to him as soon as the prisoners are liberated, | ... 0 0 2 |
| 10th. The jailer shall collect from each prisoner liberated, and pay to the clerk for his liberation, | ... 0 0 2 |

Rules to be observed by the Jailer and his servants:—

1st. The jailer shall not, by himself or any of his servants, directly or indirectly, demand or receive from any prisoner, or from any person, in his or her name, at entry, or during his or her confinement, any sums of money under the name of entry-money, garnishing, or any other denomination, separate from and over and above the fees stipulated as above. Further, the jailer shall not suffer any of the prisoners to make demands of money or drink from persons newly incarcerated, on any pretence whatever.

2nd. The prison shall be opened no sooner than nine in the morning for the admission of visitants, and shall continue open for that purpose till three o'clock in the afternoon, when the Jail shall be shut; and again opened at five o'clock in the afternoon, and shall continue open till nine o'clock at night, and no longer, for the admission of visitants. Only on Sundays the prison shall be shut during public worship. And the jailer is always to keep the whole keys of the prison in his own custody while it is shut up, and not entrust them with any of the servants.

3rd. The jailer shall, every morning and evening, at the opening and before shutting up the prison, personally visit every room and place therein, carefully inspect the windows, chimneys, and bolts thereof, in order to prevent and discover all attempts to cut the iron stanchers or to break through the stone walls, joists, and floors of the prison. And he shall take particular care that no instruments be conveyed to, or be in the possession of, any of the prisoners, whereby they may effectuate their escape or hurt one another. And in case the jailer shall, through indisposition, be prevented from the execution of his duty, he shall take care to employ some faithful person in his absence.

4th. The jailer and his servants are expressly prohibited, on any account, to sell or suffer to be brought in to any of the prisoners spirits or strong liquor, whereby they be in danger of being intoxicated, and to use their utmost endeavour to promote sobriety among those under their charge.

5th. The jailer shall keep the prisoners for debt in the best rooms, and separate from criminals and disorderly persons, and prevent, as much as possible, their associating and conversing together; and the friends and servants of debtors shall be allowed, at all convenient times, to bring in vivres for their support.

6th. In order to make the prison more healthy and clean, the jailer shall, at own expense, clean the stairs, sweep the rooms and passages, and remove and carry away all filth and nastiness, at least three times in the week.

7th. The jailer, in the event of his exacting by himself or his servants more fees than are stipulated as above, or in the event of his transgressing any of the rules or instructions foresaid, shall be

dismissed from his office, or otherwise punished as the Magistrates for the time being and Council shall judge proper.

It is recommended to the Magistrates frequently to examine and enquire into the fidelity of the jailer and his servants; and the Council hereby ordain these dues and regulations to be printed and published, and ordain the jailer for the time being to affix a copy thereof in the most conspicuous part of the Tollbooth.

Besides the yearly salary of £20 received by the jailer, he had, in addition, the foregoing fees which are so minutely described, and the profits arising from the sale of malt liquors in the Jail, which, no doubt, would be considerable. Mr. Hector, in his *Judicial Records of Renfrewshire*, states that, in 1794, there were one hundred and thirty-six civil and forty-four criminal prisoners; and in 1801, one hundred and twenty-one civil and sixty-eight criminal prisoners. Spirituous liquors were neither sold in the Jail, nor, as may be seen from these excellent rules, permitted to be brought into it. The jailer had to pay out of his emoluments at least one assistant. On 4th March, 1801, William Hart sent a letter to the Council agreeing to accept the office of jailer, and offered his two sons as sureties. The Council agreed to this, on condition that he gave a third cautioner, and that they might have this and their bond for £500. On 5th November, 1808, the Council judged it proper to associate John Hart in the office of jailer with his father, and to ordain that the new bond should stipulate for six months' notice previous to their resignation.

The unsatisfactory condition of the Paisley Prison and Court-house had frequently engaged the attention of the Town Council, the Justices of Peace, and the Commissioners of Supply for the County. When these buildings were re-erected in 1758, the population of the town was only about 5000; but at the time we have arrived at, it amounted to upwards of 30,000. The population in the country parishes had also greatly increased. It cannot, therefore, be matter of surprise that the prison and court-house accommodation had become totally inadequate. The Jail itself, also, was ill adapted for the safe custody of the prisoners. It was not, however, till 1812 that the Council had seriously under their consideration the rebuilding of the Jail and public offices in a more suitable part of the town. On 3rd November in that year, the Provost intimated to the Council that, having attended a meeting of Commissioners of Supply and Justices of Peace at the Quarter Sessions, in Renfrew, he presented a memorial which had been previously prepared and approved by the Magistrates, submitting to the meeting the propriety and necessity of their contributing towards the much-wanted enlargement of the present prison, and the providing of beds and bed-clothes for those prisoners who were destitute of these necessary comforts. The Provost further stated that the memorial had been well received, and the Sheriff-Depute of the County had also urged the necessity of establishing a

Bridewell or Workhouse in the town. The Commissioners of Supply entered with great promptitude and earnestness into the proposal to have a new prison and other public buildings. They expressed their approval of the contribution, viz., £1500, which the Council offered towards the expense of the proposed buildings, the Council retaining the old Jail, which was valued at £1200. The important matter of the accommodation required by the community in these buildings was also, after some conferences, satisfactorily arranged, before November, 1814 (*Council Records*). During the two subsequent years, the same active progress was not made in the prosecution of this important matter.

In the meantime, on the evening between the 24th and 25th August, 1817, the Jail was broken, and two prisoners escaped. One of them, named William Broadfoot, twenty-four years of age, had been imprisoned on a charge of stealing a promissory note of the Paisley Bank, of forging the signature of the person to whom the note was payable, and obtaining payment of the contents from the bank. He was at one time in the corps of Artillery Drivers, but was latterly employed as a cooper at Neilston. The other prisoner, named Alexander Forbes, nineteen years of age, had been imprisoned on a charge of housebreaking and theft. He was a clothlapper to trade, in Glasgow, and was well known to the police there, having been repeatedly in custody in the Jail of that city. The Provost and Magistrates offered a reward of £20 to anyone who would apprehend Broadfoot, and £10 for the apprehension of Forbes, but, so far as we can learn, without success.

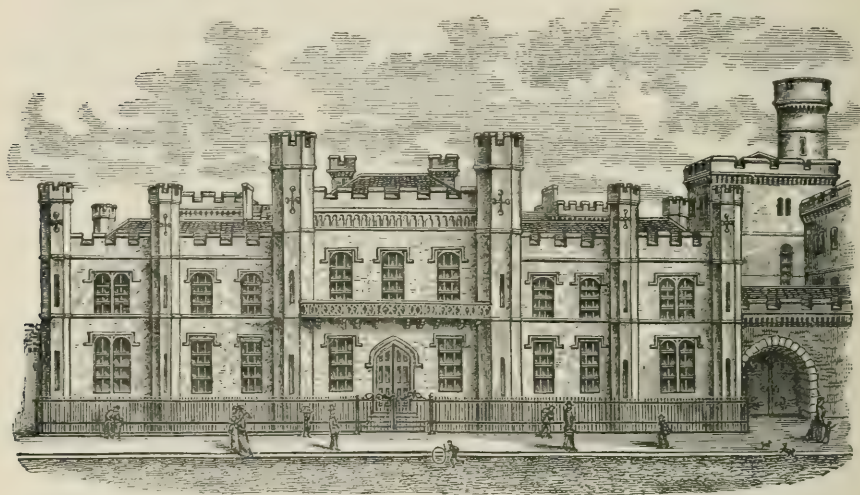
After the erection of the buildings had proceeded some length, an important alteration was proposed by the Commissioners under the Act of Parliament, viz., the putting of an additional storey upon the Jail and Bridewell,—that is, making them four storeys high instead of three. This matter was brought before the Council on 4th May, 1819, and, from a variety of considerations, they most cordially approved of the proposed alterations.

When the subject of providing furniture for some portions of the building came to be considered, the Council were of opinion that if the County Hall, Sheriff's apartments, &c., were to be furnished from the assessed funds, it appeared reasonable that the same allowance should be extended to the Council Chambers and other apartments allotted to the community (*Council Records*, 26th Jan., 1821).

When the buildings were all but completed, the question naturally arose, by what name should they be known? The Town Council (*Council Records*, 22nd March, 1821) recommended the Magistrates to have a conference with the Commissioners under the Act of Parliament regarding "the propriety of designating these buildings by the appellation of 'The Castle,' or some such appropriate name." But the preponderating number of county gentlemen who were Commissioners, ruled that they should be called the County Buildings, notwithstanding that a considerable part of the funds were provided by the Town of Paisley.

At a meeting of the Town Council held on 8th August, 1823, the Town Clerk produced copy of act and warrant received that day from the Clerk to the Commissioners, declaring the south division of the prison buildings of Paisley a legal Jail, and authorising the removal of the prisoners from the old to the new prison; and the important document was appointed to be deposited in the Charter chest for security.

The form of the County Buildings — the total expense of which, including the Jail, was £28,000 — is quadrangular. They are turreted and embattled, and have a most commanding and imposing appearance. The elevation, for beauty of design and substantial elegance, is not excelled by any edifice of the same description in Scotland. We give an architectural elevation of this building fronting County Square.



COUNTY BUILDINGS, PAISLEY.

The prison was in every respect most complete and secure.¹

The portions allocated to the community of Paisley, were as follows:—²

1st. There is given over and appropriated to the Provost and Magistrates of Paisley, as such, and to their successors in office, the south half division of the prison range of buildings, with the several areas and yards thereto belonging. 2nd. The hall in the centre of the front building, with the two back apartments entering from the hall, which hall, with the pertinents, is occupied as a court-house for the accommodation of the Sheriff Court-house of Paisley, in

¹ About twenty-five years afterwards, a large addition was made to the Jail, at an expense of upwards of £10,000.

² Abridged from the *Council Records* of 18th November, 1825.

terms of the said act, and is so to remain and to be upheld conform to the said act ; also the joint right and possession, along with the Commissioners, of the vestibule between the court-hall and the main door of the said buildings. 3rd. The south wing of the said front buildings, for the accommodation of the Town Council, the Town Clerk, Chamberlain, and otherwise, comprehending those parts, both high and low, of the said buildings, which are south of the said court-hall and vestibule, excepting that apartment in the upper flat immediately adjoining to, and entering from, the county hall, on the south, and excepting, also, what is appropriated to Commissioners of the Police of the Burgh, and under the further reservation of the use and privilege of the convene rooms, as the means of access from the court-hall. 4th. There is given to the Commissioners of Police that apartment situated on the south end of the upper flat of the south wing ; also the vaulted apartment in the ground flat, called the officers' hall, and of the two lock-up rooms, with the privilege of holding their evening meetings in the convene room ; the Commissioners being bound to maintain the apartment in the upper floor, and to defray the one half of the expense of the officers' hall and lock-up rooms, the Magistrates being bound to defray the other half.

On Sunday forenoon, the 6th March, 1825, a daring attempt was made by a number of criminals, confined in the Jail, to make their escape. In the morning, the turnkey neglected to secure properly the door of the cell where a prisoner, named Faulds, was confined. After the Jail was locked up for the forenoon, Faulds availed himself of the liberty thus afforded him ; and having gained access to the corridor, he unfastened the doors of the cells, which during the day were only secured by a large cross bar, and could, therefore, be opened from the outside without a key. By this means he gained the assistance of ten other prisoners, and the united efforts of the whole were directed against the large iron gate at the foot of the stair. At this time the assistant jailer overheard the noise created by their attempts to force open the gate, and being warned also by signals from a woman confined above, he cautiously entered, and ascertained that a number of the prisoners were at liberty. He immediately proceeded to the square outside, where he procured the assistance of a part of the 79th regiment, who fortunately were at the time assembled in front of the County Buildings preparatory to going to church. On entering the Jail, the military and police found that the prisoners, aware that their design to escape had been discovered, had all retired to their cells, where Faulds had again secured them.

On the evening of 24th September, 1847, a mysterious escape was made from the prison by two prisoners, named Thomas M'Kay and John Campbell. The prison was left at night in a proper condition of safety ; and the turnkey, on the following morning, found the outer door open, along with the safety gate. The gate had the appearance of having been forced, as there were marks of

violence discernible on it. The carriages were in waiting to convey to Glasgow the prisoners who were indicted for trial at the Circuit Court; and it was when the turnkey proceeded to bring out the prisoners to the conveyance that the doors were discovered open. On proceeding up stairs he found that the cells of the prisoners mentioned, who were indicted on the charges of having forced open the Post Office and *Renfrewshire Advertiser* office, had also been broken open, and that both of the culprits were away. On examination, the cells on the same corridor were all right; but on going up stairs, it was ascertained that a prisoner, an old accomplice of the two others, was likewise off. A prisoner, in a cell adjoining that of M'Kay and Campbell, stated that the three men came into his place about eleven o'clock, and said they had orders from the jailer for a ladder. They took from him a ladder of about eight feet in length, and left. The ladder was got at the back wall tied, by means of ropes, to a pair of common shop steps used about the prison. A rope was also tied to the top of the ladder, and hung over the wall into the river. By this means the escape over the wall was effected; but how the locks were opened was a mystery. It was quite impossible that anyone could do it from the inside; and the only plausible supposition was, that it had been effected by accomplices from the outside. The whole affair was cleverly managed. Nothing was heard of any of these escaped prisoners till January, 1850, when M'Kay was found to be one of the artillerymen in Leith fort. The Renfrewshire Fiscal sent through two officers to identify him, on the 14th of that month, and bring him back to Paisley prison. M'Kay was identified and put in the guard-house, until the commanding officer had given his sanction to have him removed. In the interim, M'Kay got out of the guard-house on some pretext, and managed to make his escape. It was strongly suspected that some of the military connived at his escape.

On the removal of the officials of the Town Council and court to the County Buildings, and the prisoners to the new Jail, the Tollbooth at the Cross was taken down and rebuilt, according to plans provided by Mr. Reid, the architect for the County Buildings, and added to the Saracen's Head Inn. We have already given drawings of the Steeple and Old Tollbooth as they stood, before the latter was thus taken down.

Previous to 1801, the money transactions of the Town Council were all conducted by one of their own number, who was called the Treasurer. On the one hand, he collected all the revenues and received what money was borrowed; and on the other hand, he disbursed the funds according, generally, to precepts from the Town Clerk, as instructed by the Town Council. As a rule, his intromissions were examined, or, as it was frequently termed in those days, "footed," every quarter by a committee of the Council. It was unfortunately not the practice for these quarterly statements of the Treasurer to be given up to the Council or Town Clerk for preserva-

tion ; they were generally retained by the Treasurer himself. Those of the sixteenth and seventeenth and of nearly all the first half of the eighteenth centuries, with their relative vouchers, are therefore lost. At the latter end of the eighteenth century, and the beginning of the present century, the money transactions of the Council had increased so much that, on the 10th October, 1800, the Council agreed to appoint a Chamberlain to manage their affairs, and instructed the Magistrates "to think of a proper person, and to report." On the 30th January, in the following year, the Council, on the recommendation of the Magistrates, elected Mr. John Patison to be Town Chamberlain, at a yearly salary of £80 ; and appointed a committee to meet with him, and to prepare a set of books for his regulation in the execution of his office ; and to appoint a proper person to draw a plan of the community's lands. The Town Chamberlain's office was first in the Tollbooth Buildings at the Cross, and afterwards in the County Buildings. Mr. Patison held this important situation till 1812, when Mr. James Craig, jun., manufacturer, was elected his successor on 13th October in that year. Mr. Craig was at that time a member of the Town Council, but resigned immediately after his appointment. His annual salary was at first £130, and he gave security for his intromissions to the extent of £2000.¹

The two fire engines possessed by the Council were, with their appurtenances, placed in what was called the Meal Market, in the Weigh-house Close, High Street. The following regulations were enacted by the Magistrates and Council on 24th December, 1800, for regulating the conduct of the firemen and encouraging them in their difficult duties :—

"That no fireman shall appear at any fire without the jacket, cap, and badge which have been furnished him. That after every fire the engines shall be cleaned by the firemen, within twenty-four hours at least, that they may be in readiness in case of future accidents ; and it is expressly required that the engines shall be

¹ Mr. Craig continued to act as Chamberlain till 1833, when he resigned ; his salary at that time being £160. On 4th October in that year, Mr. John R. Callender, a brother of one of the councillors, was elected Chamberlain, but he resigned in September in the following year ; and Mr. Robert Brown was chosen in his place on 8th October, 1834. Mr. Brown resigned 4th October, 1845. At that time the Chamberlain's Office was open every day in the week, including Saturday, from ten a.m. till nine o'clock p.m. On 29th November, 1836, a motion was made by a member of Council, that the Chamberlain's Office should be shut at eight p.m., except for a month at each term of letting the church seats, but it was negatived. At the present time the Chamberlain's Office is open from nine a.m. till six p.m., and on Saturdays from nine till one o'clock. Mr. John Lorimer was elected Chamberlain on 8th October, 1845, and resigned in 1854. Mr. Robert Ferguson, assistant chamberlain, was promoted to the Chamberlainship on 25th April in that year. Mr. Ferguson resigned in 1862, and was succeeded by Mr. James Adam on 2nd December in that year. Mr. Adam resigned in 1872 ; and Mr. A. M. Ross, the present Chamberlain, was elected on 8th November, 1872.

dried as completely as possible before they be replaced in the house appropriated to them. In order to encourage vigilance and activity, a premium of five shillings will be given to the fireman or firemen who shall bring the first engine to any fire that may happen in the town or suburbs, and two shillings and sixpence to those who shall arrive with the second engine. But if the alarm of fire given shall turn out to be false, or if it shall afterwards appear that the report of fire has been excited by a foul chimney only, the premium in either of these cases shall be two shillings to the firemen who bring the first engine. In the event of fires taking place whereby damages are occasioned, the firemen shall be paid for their trouble, according to the determination of the Magistrates; but in this case, each fireman who shall have been present and acted at the fire, shall not have less than half-a-crown, and the allowance shall be made as soon as the keeper of the engines reports to the Magistrates that they have been properly returned to the engine-house and that the firemen did their duty."

At the present time the brigade, which consists of twelve men and one superintendent, is in a very efficient state. The apparatus and materials include a steam fire engine, one manual engine, three hand reels, and the necessary quantity of hose. These are all kept in what was at one time the stables connected with the Saracen's Head Inn, Moss Street.

The Town's Assessorship was an honourable position, which the Council took great pains to fill properly as vacancies occurred. Mr. Davidson, at the time we treat of, having been appointed Professor of Law in the University of Glasgow, and the Council being of opinion that it would be more suitable for the interests of the community to have an Assessor resident in Edinburgh, made choice of Mr. Robert Semple, advocate. At his death, the Council, on 6th January, 1808, appointed Mr. John Colin Dunlop, advocate, to be Legal Assessor to the Burgh. On 31st July, 1816, the Council elected Sir William Hamilton, advocate, to be Assessor in the place of Mr. Dunlop, who had been appointed Sheriff-Depute of Renfrewshire. This was the last appointment by the Council of an Assessor.

The Council, in September, 1801, as recommended by a committee of their number who had been appointed to examine the woods of Ferguslie, agreed to sell thirty ash and forty beech trees. Shortly after this the Council approved a more important resolution regarding that valuable property. They agreed to sell the Ferguslie estate, along with the superiority of the part of Carriagehill belonging to them, and fixed the upset price at £12,000. Not finding a purchaser in this way, the Council disposed of them privately, in the month of July following, to Mr. Thomas Bissland, for £12,000.

The Act of Parliament prohibiting the distilling of spirits from grain expired in January, 1802; and the distillers, along with others, used great efforts to prevent its renewal. On the other

hand, many influential parties were in favour of having the act renewed, and of this number was the Town Council of Paisley, who petitioned Parliament to that effect. In their petition, they held that the prohibition to distil spirits from grain had been attended with the happiest results in this part of the United Kingdom, both by lowering the price of provisions to the poorer classes of the inhabitants, and by restraining them in the immoderate use of spirituous liquors, whereby an evident improvement of their health and morals had taken place. On 14th February, 1809, the Council petitioned against the bill that was brought into Parliament for permitting distillation from grain in Ireland. In 1810, when the act was about to expire which prohibited distillation from grain, the Council again petitioned Parliament for its continuance. And in 1811 and 1812, the Council petitioned the Prince Regent to prohibit the distillation of spirits from grain, on account of the high rate of the markets.¹

On 25th January, 1805, the Council resolved to petition Parliament for a Repeal of the Corn Laws. The petition was transmitted to Mr. Macdowall, M.P., for presentation; and Lord Archibald Hamilton, M.P., and Boyd Alexander, Esq., M.P., were requested to support it. On 13th July following, the Council voted their unanimous thanks to Mr. Macdowall, M.P., for his assiduous exertions in procuring amendments on the late Corn Laws. In March, 1812, the Council again petitioned Parliament "not to renew the exclusive privileges possessed by the East India Company, in order that the nation at large might be admitted to a participation of the commerce of the east." There was a movement, in different parts of the country, to have the protection afforded by the Riot Act to churches, dwelling-houses, &c., extended to warehouses and public works of every description, which may be burned or injured by riotous persons. The Council, "believing that an act to this effect appeared in the present times to be requisite," directed a letter, on 1st May, 1812, to be sent to the representatives of the county and district, respectfully soliciting their support to any bill which may be brought into Parliament for effecting this important object. In 1813, a committee of the House of Commons recommended an alteration in the existing Corn Laws; the Council, on 1st June in that year, adopted a resolution, strongly objecting to the "prohibiting of the importation of foreign grain, until the price in the United Kingdom shall have reached a standard far exceeding that prescribed

¹ Distilleries were first introduced into Scotland in 1701. Two applications were made to the Estates, in consequence of the prohibition of foreign brandies, for privileges to be granted to home distilleries, the first established in the kingdom — one for distilling a spirit from sugar, malt, and other liquors, by a company in Glasgow, in 1701; the other from malt alone, by Alex. Monteith, surgeon in Edinburgh, who craved that the art discovered by him to draw a spirit from malt, equal in goodness to true French brandy, might be declared a manufactory, with the same privileges and liberties as are granted to others. Previously to this the staple beverage of the Lowlands was ale (*Aikman's History of Scotland*, vol. v., p. 404).

by statutes now in force," and "that such an advance is neither required nor warranted by the present circumstances of the country, and is only calculated to enrich the landowner at the expense of the commercial classes, who, from various considerations, are ill fitted to afford it." In March in the following year, they again petitioned the House of Commons against any alteration in the Corn Laws, and transmitted the petition to Mr. Kirkman Finlay, M.P., for presentation. In July, 1814, the Council petitioned Parliament to abolish the African slave trade. In March, 1815, the Council renewed their petition to Parliament against any alteration in the Corn Laws. And during this year the inhabitants of Paisley forwarded a petition against the Corn Laws, signed by 6,400 of the inhabitants, to Lord Archibald Hamilton, M.P., for presentation to the House of Commons. Notwithstanding all the opposition it aroused in every part of the country, the Corn Bill, sanctioning a protective duty of 8os. per quarter, was passed by the legislature.

When the British army was victorious in any of the battles in which they were engaged during the long-continued Continental war, the inhabitants displayed their joy at the result, and their loyalty, by illuminations and the ringing of the public bells. These rejoicings were generally conducted in an orderly manner. Sometimes, however, the youthful portion of the inhabitants were much more demonstrative—burning tar barrels and making manifestations of a rather unruly kind, which required occasionally the interference of the Magistrates. But it was at the peace in 1814, which turned out to be only temporary, when the combined armies of Europe vanquished the French nation, and banished Napoleon to the island of Elba, that the greatest demonstrations were made in the town. The British nation had long suffered severely from these bloody and expensive wars on the Continent of Europe; and now, when peace was secured, the joy of the people was universal and unbounded. In no part of the country, however, were loyalty, patriotism, and abhorrence of the lawless ruler of the French nation, more conspicuously manifested at this time than in Paisley. The Provost and Magistrates readily complied with the desire of the inhabitants in issuing a proclamation for a general illumination to celebrate the return of peace.

This splendid illumination, as described in the *Glasgow Chronicle*, took place on the evening of the 19th April, 1814. In the afternoon of that day, a numerous and respectable body of operative weavers paraded the town, under leaders of their own selection, accompanied by several military bands of music and an excellent local band, and displaying standards and insignia. The operative wrights and tradesmen of other crafts formed a part of the long-extended procession. At six o'clock in the evening, they were formed into a square at the Cross, in front of the Tollbooth stair, in which stood the Magistrates and Council, the Sheriff, &c., who drank the healths of the venerable King George III. and the Royal Family, during

repeated discharges of musketry by a detachment from the local militia of the county. The ringing of the bells at eight o'clock was the signal for illumination, and from the darkness of the night every part of the town instantly exhibited a grand and luminous blaze, displaying taste and splendour far exceeding all former demonstrations of the kind. All the houses in the vicinity of the town were likewise tastefully lighted up. At Crossflat House, the residence of Mr. Brown, the entire front exhibited a display of variegated lamps, disposed in columns, wreaths, and festoons. A large transparency in the centre showed an equestrian statue of the Emperor Alexander, surmounted by an imperial crown of brilliant light, the whole forming a fine architectural representation of an illuminated temple. The Coffee-Room was brilliantly lit up, and displayed three transparencies with appropriate devices. The centre transparency exhibited the words, "Tyranny Overthrown and Europe Saved under the auspices of Britain," with the figure of Britannia trampling on a very hateful monster or figure of Tyranny in chains; in her left hand was a shield and in her right a trident, with which to strike the prostrate figure; the British Lion was on her left hand, and the Star of Peace was seen rising above the horizon on the right. On the pedestal was exhibited, in separate lines, "Moscow Burned," "Paris Spared," "Louis XVIII." In the transparency on the right were the letters, "G. III. R.," surmounted by a crown; and immediately beneath were the names, "Alexander, Francis, and Frederick"; in the centre was the word "Peace," encircled with laurel on azure ground; beneath was the name and a likeness of Nelson, inscribed, "Britain has done her duty," and a view of ships-of-war. The third transparency represented the letters "G.P.R.," surmounted by the Prince of Wales' feather; the names of Rutuzo, Blucher, and Schwartzenberg, arranged opposite to those of their respective sovereigns in the corresponding transparency; "Commerce" occupied the centre, encircled like Peace; beneath was a portrait of Wellington, the deliverer of the Peninsula, with warlike trophies. On the base of the supporting pedestal appeared "Victory." The house of the Provost was splendidly lighted, and exhibited three very appropriate and well-executed transparencies. One of the windows of James Muir, surgeon, represented Britannia standing in a car drawn by a lion and a unicorn, Britannia in the act of rescuing the map of Europe from the torch of Discord. Below was seen—

"From this blest hour all violence shall cease,
The age grow mild, and soften into peace,"

—a dove descending with the olive branch, and the motto, "The Captive set Free." Of nine transparencies presented by Mr. George Carswell, the two following were particularly noticed:—A figure representing France in a resting posture, "Set Free from Tyranny and Oppression," with Fame rising over Europe proclaiming the joyful news; the other figure, Justice, pointing to a bust of

Louis XVIII. on a pedestal, with the words, "The finger of Providence is in this." At the corner was a figure of Buonaparte, with his crown tumbling headlong. Mr. James Wilson, Love Street, had five transparencies, of which the following was distinguished:—A mounted Cossack throwing his lance at a fugitive figure of Buonaparte, with the inscription, "Thanks to our heroes who have vanquished the destroyers of commerce and the disturber of the world." Mr. Peter Wright exhibited a transparency of Peace persuading Mars to sheathe his sword, surrounded by a beautiful display of light. Mr. Stevenson exhibited in St. James Street a Blasted Tree of Liberty, with a serpent encircling the branch, and presenting a discharge to Buonaparte, who is represented on his knees receiving it,—while the scourge of the nation falls from his hand, and the fire of the furies blazes before him. Mr. Farquharson, of St. James Place, exhibited, amid a blaze of glory, Britannia exalted on a pedestal, surrounded and looked up to by the representatives of the Allied Powers, and busy Fame with her trumpet. Messrs. R. Cochrane & Sons had three transparencies, the most prominent of which was Marshal Ney delivering to the Emperor Alexander a parchment roll containing the abdication of Buonaparte. Mr. Leishman had four transparencies, the principal representing the breaking up of the Confederation of the Rhine, and the triumphant Ministers and Warriors of the United Kingdom, with Wellington in the centre, encircled with laurel; on the right, on an appropriate ground, were Pitt, Nelson, and other of the departed British statesmen and heroes who shone conspicuously in the late eventful contest; on the left were represented the Allied Powers, with the great commanders of their armies, and the British Mission attached to them. In the second range, the centre window had a full transparent figure of St. George destroying the dragon monster, while the horse trampled over the broken eagles of Buonaparte; above, in front of the balcony, forming an ample semi-circle, were the words, "Europe saved by the example of Britain." The balustrade was studded with variegated lamps. The whole was surmounted (on the top of the balcony) by a large brilliant star, with the motto above, "The star of peace returns," and below Louis XVIII. On the south front was a fine transparency of the British Crown with its emblems, and the ancient arms and crown of France, connected by wreaths of olive twigs. At the Union Bank was a flag of Great Britain, with her trident surmounting it. Mr. Blaikie, engraver, exhibited the triumphant entry of the Allied Powers into Paris. Bailie William M'Laran had three transparencies ingeniously and appropriately designed for the occasion. Messrs. Brown, Macalister & Brown, had figures of Britannia, with the motto, "Britain the hope and anchor of the world." At the head of Orchard Street, there was a grand exhibition of variegated lamps, displayed in the form of a triumphal arch, decorated with flowers and shrubbery. Mr. C. J. Fraser, Church Lane, had a picturesque representation of Buonaparte's voyage to the Island of Elba, he

being rowed off in an open boat, with a Cossack standing over him, while a group of Cossacks occupied the foreground, with the inscription, "The obstacles to peace removed." The Tollbooth hall and offices had, in the bow front, the first range of windows entirely filled with variegated transparencies bearing illustrious names. In the centre window were those of our revered King, the Prince Regent, and the Duke of York. On a pedestal was a statue of Neptune with his trident. On the front was a bust of Mr. Pitt, supported on one side by a soldier "in the garb of old Gaul," bearing a British standard. On the other lay a British sailor, directing the soldier to the inscription, "The Pilot who weathered the storm." Messrs. Wylie's office had, in variegated lamps, the words, "Europe is free." Numerous other transparencies, of great taste and splendour, were exhibited in every part of the town. At ten o'clock the ringing of the bells ceased. This was the signal for extinguishing the lights; and the memorable evening was brought to a close by the combustion, on the uppermost battlements of the High Church steeple, of a chemical mixture, prepared and superintended by Mr. Davidson, lecturer on chemistry. This exhibition was continued for nearly fifteen minutes, and notwithstanding heavy rain and a dense atmosphere, the country for many miles round was brilliantly illuminated. The effects of the light at a distance were much more striking than in the town. Although the concourse of people in the streets during the time of the illumination was immense, thousands having come from a distance, yet the most exemplary order and decorum prevailed.

There was no proper public library established in Paisley till 1802. Prior to that time, books were lent out by the booksellers, such as Mr. George Caldwell, in the Moss Row, and others, whose stock of literature was of the most circumscribed range. On 14th May in that year, the "Paisley Library Society" was instituted.¹ It commenced, as stated in the first printed catalogue, with 138 subscribers, who paid three guineas on entering, and half-a-guinea a-year thereafter. Those paying ten guineas at once, were exempted from the yearly contributions. The library was managed by a committee of twelve members, who were elected annually, and were empowered to purchase books to the amount of one-third of the annual income, — purchases to be confined to such books as were of high character and general utility, and excluding all those that were merely professional. A subscriber refusing to act as a manager or curator, after due election, was fined in half-a-guinea; but after paying once, he was not subjected to another fine on a similar account.² The library appears to have prospered, and to have been much appreciated by the inhabitants; for, ten years thereafter, the

¹ In Glasgow, the Stirling Library was established in 1791, and the Glasgow Public Library in 1804.

² In 1803, Mr. Thomas Crichton, master of the Town's Hospital, published a poem of considerable merit in praise of the institution, and dedicated it to the President and Curators of the Library.

number of subscribers had increased to 200, and the books to 3000 volumes.¹ The books in this library were transferred to the Free Library when it was opened in 1871.

On 1st January, 1806, the Paisley Trades' Library was instituted. The annual subscription was six shillings, and it was largely taken advantage of by the operative classes. But it was given up about thirty-five years ago, because it was not sufficiently supported.

The Paisley Theological Library was instituted in 1808. Those present at the first meeting on 18th May, 1808, when it was first projected, were — The Rev. Messrs. Findlay, Rankin, Reid, Ferrier, Smart, Macdermid, and Blair; and Messrs. William Carlile, James Carlile, James Walkinshaw, George Carswell, and John M'Gavin. The object of the institution was "to form a collection of such books as are subservient to religious knowledge of the Scriptures." The annual subscription was half-a-guinea, without any entry-money. The society at first consisted of 56 members. In 1825, according to an advertisement at that time, the library was stored in the society rooms, No. 25 Moss Street; and was open for giving out and receiving books every lawful day, except Wednesday, between the hours of one and three afternoon. At this time the books had increased to 700 volumes.

Besides these public libraries, Mr. Thomas Auld, jun., bookseller, at the "fourth shop north of the Council Chamber, Cross," had a circulating library of 2500 volumes "in the various branches of literature, which were lent by the year, at 9s.; half-year, at 5s.; quarter, at 2s. 6d.; or month, at 1s. Readers who did not choose to subscribe had to pay one penny for each volume. If they kept any book more than two nights, they were deemed subscribers, and had to pay accordingly" (*Mr. Auld's Catalogue*, published in 1808).

Mr. John Millar, at the head of Castle Street, issued at this time a catalogue "of books in every department of literature," but he did not state whether he lent any of them out. At the head of this catalogue he states:—

"This list o' beuks — sum dull, sum clever,
An' sum ye ne'er will see again —
Cum, purchase now! for wha could ever
Sic beuks sae cheap before obtain!"

Mr. Millar in this catalogue states that he had edited the following publications:—"Rational Recreations," "The Paisley Repository," "Hardyknute," "The Life and Death of the famous Piper of Kilbarchan," "Accurate Account of the Dreadful Calamity at the Canal Basin, 10th November, 1810," "The Songster," and "The Witches of Renfrewshire;" and that he was also the "author of a 'Collection of Arithmetical and Mathematical Questions,' 'Problems on the National Debt,' 'Exercises in Spelling and Numbers,' 'Tyro's Orthographical and Numerical Exercises,' &c."

¹ Gilroy's *Paisley Directory* for 1812.

The first proposal for the formation of a canal in this district was made by James Watt, of Birmingham, the improver of the steam engine. When residing in Glasgow, in 1773, he surveyed a course for a canal from Paisley to Hurlet, and his estimate of the expense was £4,600 (*Wilson's View of Renfrewshire*, p. 186). In 1791, a number of gentlemen who believed that the formation of a canal from Saltcoats to Paisley and Glasgow would be a great public benefit to the country, had its course actually laid down (*Statistical Account of Beith*, vol. viii., p. 327). At the beginning of this century the last-mentioned measure for connecting by a canal these towns and other intermediate places with the sea, for the safe and cheap conveyance of passengers and goods, received the earnest support of the inhabitants and their representatives at the Council Board. The Council, when applied to, subscribed five guineas "on behalf of the community towards defraying the expense of making a survey of the intended canal from Saltcoats to Glasgow" (*Council Records*, 26th January, 1803). And on 4th December in the following year they agreed to address the committee of management on the propriety of making its direction in a straight line from Paisley to Glasgow. In 1804, surveys, plans, and estimates of the canal, prepared by Thomas Telford, the celebrated engineer, were brought before the public by the Earl of Eglinton and a number of other public-spirited gentlemen, as an undertaking certain to be of great advantage, with every probability of being highly profitable. His Lordship was in reality the grand mover in this scheme. Captain Sandford Tatham, of the Royal Navy, regulating officer in this district, who was consulted regarding the proposal to form this canal, was highly in favour of it. Masters and owners of vessels, he held, would prefer discharging their cargoes at Ardrossan, and having them carried by canal direct to Glasgow and other places, to suffering the delay that vessels were subject to in working their way by the circuitous route up the Clyde. The estimated expense of making this canal from Glasgow through Paisley to Ardrossan, a distance of $31\frac{3}{4}$ miles, was £125,000. In 1806, an Act of Parliament was obtained for making this canal, with a branch, to the coal works at Hurlet. The share capital was fixed at £140,000, with powers to borrow £30,000 in addition, should such be required. The Town Council, on 23rd January, 1807, agreed to subscribe for ten shares of the stock of the company; and many others in Paisley also took stock. As the application for shares amounted to £43,000, the company agreed to make only the part of the canal between Glasgow, Paisley, and Johnstone, which was estimated by the same engineer to cost £49,000. Contracts were accordingly entered into; but before the canal was nearly finished the capital of the company was exhausted, and money had to be borrowed under great difficulties, and more stock taken up by the existing shareholders, to complete the works. Before that was accomplished, however, upwards of £100,000 had been expended. The Town Council, on 5th September, 1809, agreed "to guarantee,

with the other holders of shares, any sums which it may be found necessary to borrow for the completion of that public and useful undertaking." And on 26th November in the following year, they agreed "to take other ten shares of the capital stock of the canal, at £25 each share, agreeably to the resolutions of the last general meeting of the proprietors." The original shares were £50 each, but by this time they were reduced one half. This important undertaking was commenced in 1807, and the part from Paisley to Johnstone was opened for traffic on 6th November, 1810. On the 10th of that month, being Martinmas Fair Saturday, a most calamitous accident occurred at the canal basin. When the passage boat, "The Countess of Eglinton," arrived from Johnstone, a crowd of passengers, to the number of nearly two hundred, rushed on board and upset it, throwing nearly all its occupants into the water. Although every effort was made to save them, eighty-seven were drowned. Thereby, as may readily be believed, gloom overshadowed the whole community.

A public meeting, called by the Magistrates, was immediately held, to consider the best means of affording relief to the relatives of those who perished in the canal. At that meeting a committee was appointed to collect subscriptions and receive information as to the situation of those requiring assistance. Collections were also made in aid of the funds at the different churches in town. The inhabitants sympathised so much with the object of the subscription, that the large sum of £954 18s. 6d. was raised, and the distribution of it among the relations of the sufferers extended from that period till April, 1814.

On 4th October, 1811, the ceremony of the opening of the canal was carried out. Three of the company's boats, filled with gentlemen, among whom were the Earl of Eglinton, Sir John Maxwell, Mr. Campbell of Blythwood, the Sheriff of Renfrewshire, and the Magistrates of Paisley, accompanied by the band of the 1st Lanarkshire Militia, left Paisley for Glasgow amidst an immense concourse of spectators. They arrived at Glasgow under a salute from the artillery of the Forth and Clyde Canal Volunteers. The company on landing were received by the Lord Provost and Magistrates of Glasgow, the Dean of Guild, the Deacon Convener of the Trades' House, the Magistrates of Gorbals, and other gentlemen. The company met in the warehouse at the end of the canal; and after an impressive prayer was offered up by the Rev. Mr. M'Lean, minister of Gorbals, they partook of luncheon, and several loyal and appropriate speeches were delivered. On returning to Paisley in the boats, a company, numbering about one hundred, dined in the Tontine Inn,—the Earl of Eglinton occupying the chair. In November, 1813, the company advertised that the fares by the passenger boats would be—for first cabin, 1s. 3d.; and for second cabin, 10d. The time taken was about one hour and fifty minutes.

The charges for the carriage of goods from Paisley to Glasgow was 4½d. per cwt.; from Paisley to Johnstone, 3d. per cwt. For

grain, flour, &c., from Paisley to Glasgow, the charge for ten bags was 7s.; for pig iron, per ton, 3s. 6d. Single parcels below 1 cwt. were charged per stone one penny. The depth of the canal was $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet, the breadth was generally 28 feet, but in many places much narrower.¹

The following table gives some idea of the passenger traffic :—

			1815.	1816.	Decrease in 1816.	Increase in 1816.
April, ...	...	...	7467	7225	242	
May, ...	...	...	9220	9568		348

We do not learn from the Council records when a company of special constables was first organised ; but on many occasions they were of great service in preserving the peace of the town.² They appear to have been first constituted about 1795 ; and in 1800 regulations were published, along with a statement of their powers and duties. The body consisted of respectable citizens. Each constable was furnished with a baton. The town and suburbs were divided into four wards, according to the number of parishes. Each ward had a chief constable, empowered to command as if he were a military officer. There was, likewise, a second in command, to aid the head constable with his advice, and to act in his absence. Each ward was divided into eight or more districts, according to extent and population. The captain, or head of each district, kept a roll of his men, and his duty was to warn them to attend the several rendezvous at the time notified by his commander. The number enrolled in the four parishes exceeded five hundred, and these could be collected in less than an hour, ready on receiving orders from the Magistrates in the town, or the Sheriff or Justices in the suburbs, to disperse any mob or subdue any riot. Without such warrant, the men were not empowered to act (*Statement in 1820 by the late Provost William Carlile*). The supplying of each constable with a baton, was all the expense incurred by the town.

¹ "Some time since, Mr. Cunningham of Craigends engaged with another gentleman for a wager of £20, that he would, on horseback, leap over the canal between Glasgow and Paisley. He was to have his own choosing of the ground ; and the weather being extremely inviting on Tuesday last, the parties met to see the exploit performed. After riding up and down for some time, a piece of ground was fixed upon about a mile on the east side of Paisley, called Cook's Ridge. Mr. Cunningham then put his horse in motion, and accomplished the feat with ease. The spirited animal went four feet over the canal, which being eleven feet broad at the place, made fifteen feet of a leap in whole (*Glasgow Chronicle*, 26th December, 1822).

² The word constable is, by some authorities, derived from the Saxon words, "Koning" and "Stapel," signifying a support of the King ; and by others, from the Latin words, "Comes" and "Stabuli," denoting a master of the horse. The latter derivation is that adopted by Spelman, Du Cange, and others, and has reference, probably, to that officer well known in the Empire, who had to regulate all matters of chivalry, tilts, tournaments, and feats of arms, which were performed on horseback (*T. D. Marwick's High Constables of Edinburgh*, p. 3).

The following is a copy of the constables' instructions, as fixed in 1809. They will, no doubt, be found to be interesting :—

“Instructions and regulations for the special constables appointed for the town and suburbs of Paisley, published by authority of the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Sheriff and Magistrates of Paisley, 25th July, 1809. In general, the duty of special constables is to aid the Civil Magistrates in the preservation of good order, by the suppression of riotous and seditious conduct, and by discovering and bringing to justice all disturbers of the public peace. But besides assisting the Magistracy, they are entitled, of their own authority, to seize the persons of delinquents, in all cases of felony, or capital crime, and in all breaches of the peace, *committed in their presence*. Breaches of the peace comprehend not only the committing of actual violence against persons or property, but the uttering of violent threats, or making other demonstrations of immediate mischief,—such as pursuing or following any of the lieges with abuse, or clamour, or threats, so as to excite reasonable dread of personal danger, even although no actual violence should take place. In all such cases there is an aggravation of the offence, when it is committed by one or more, united with others, aiding or abetting. The persons seized by the constables ought to be carried before a magistrate without unnecessary delay ; and if a magistrate cannot conveniently be found to examine the offenders, they may be detained in custody till examination. A special constable is entitled to demand the assistance of the neighbours or bystanders in securing offenders ; and any person who shall refuse or withhold such assistance when required, is highly culpable, and liable to be punished on complaint made to a magistrate. If resistance or violence be offered to a constable in the execution of his duty (after making his office known), he is, of course, entitled to persist, and, if necessary, to repel force by force ; but in the event of there being much personal risk, the most prudent course will be to endeavour to identify the offenders and to report the offence to a magistrate, with the names of the offenders and of any witnesses who can give testimony in the matter ; and if the offenders are not known, to follow or otherwise endeavour to procure and to report information concerning them. Although a baton be the usual badge of office, the want of it is not material ; and when the constable is either personally known, or declares his office when it becomes necessary for him to act, an offender will be liable to punishment if he should offer resistance. The town and suburbs being divided into wards, under the Police Act, the Commissioners of Police of the several wards are to act as head constables, *ex officio*, for their respective wards. The special constables will not, except in cases of sudden emergency, proceed to act without receiving directions from the Sheriff or Magistrates, which will be communicated through the head constable. Places of rendezvous will be appointed by the head constables for their respective wards, where they may convene the special constables in the event of any tumult or riot existing, or

being expected ; and from which places of rendezvous they may send patrols, or adopt such other measures as may appear best for the preservation of the peace ; the special constables taking their directions from the head constables of their respective wards, and they again from the Sheriff or Magistrates."

On 9th December, 1812, the Magistrates reported to the Council that they had considered it their duty in these times to revive the establishment of special constables, for the security of private property and the maintenance of public tranquility ; and they reported the measures pursued for that purpose, of which the Council highly approved ; and as a number of batons, in addition to those on hand, would be necessary, the Magistrates were directed to obtain them without delay, and to procure estimates from such tradesmen as they should think were qualified to furnish them. On the 15th of the same month, the Magistrates reported that, after obtaining a variety of offers, "they had contracted with Mr. Waterston, painter, for as many as might be required, at the rate of 1s. 4d. each."

In 1804, the Magistrates and Council, from the increase of population and manufactures, accompanied as these naturally are with an increase of crimes and irregularities, seriously directed their attention to the securing of a police force, and the making of other sanitary regulations, as fixed by Act of Parliament. Prior to the union of Scotland and England, the inhabitants were mainly ruled, as we have shown, by acts passed by the Bailies and Council, and administered also by themselves. The town-guard was organised by the Bailies and Council, and was at first taken advantage of when such was required, but afterwards it became a regular force. The Magistrates had the sole control of this body, which at this time consisted of thirteen householders, who were warned in rotation. During fairs, the number was increased to eighteen. They nightly elected their own captain, and their duties lasted from ten at night till five or six in the morning. The captain reported to the acting-magistrate what had taken place during the night. When the population was small, this social arrangement was very successful ; but with a greatly increased population it was found to be insufficient. There were many objections to this system. One of them was that the more wealthy portion of the inhabitants did not personally act, and their substitutes were very often persons quite unqualified for the work. Frequently, instead of suppressing breaches of the peace and arresting those who were riotous, they became abettors of the mob, and failed to perambulate the streets and to report breaches of the peace to the Magistrates. The streets also at this time were inadequately lighted, there being only about seventy lamps provided by the Council for the use of the whole town. The streets of the town received some attention ; but they do not appear to have had any foot-pavements, as such are not alluded to in the Council records. It is not, then, to be wondered at that the Council, after consulting the inhabitants and holding many meetings, had the

draft of a Police Bill considered and matured. Five hundred copies of it were printed for the use of the inhabitants (*Council Records*, 4th January, 1805). After much discussion and deliberation, a bill was ultimately framed, and passed both Houses of Parliament without opposition, and received the Royal assent on 11th July, 1806. The expenses incurred in obtaining the Act were £797, which the Council advanced, but they were afterwards repaid. On 23rd August, 1806, the Council agreed "to make a present of the public lamps and lamp-irons to the Commissioners of Police for the Burgh." They also agreed "to allow the Commissioners the use of the outer chamber and former guard-room, on condition of their furnishing coals and candles for their officers of police." At first, and down at least till 1820, the Burgh Police force consisted of a master of police, two sergeants, four corporals, a clerk, a surveyor of houses, and twelve night watchmen. The watchmen were to be on their respective stations at ten o'clock at night from April to September inclusive, continuing till five in the morning; and from October to March inclusive, at nine o'clock at night, continuing until six in the morning (*George Ritchie's Directory* for 1820, p. 56). The Burgh was divided into nine wards, and two Commissioners were chosen for each ward by such householders as paid £5 or upwards of rent yearly. The Magistrates were Commissioners by office. The suburbs were divided into six wards, with one Commissioner for each; the Sheriff being always a Commissioner *ex officio*. The rate of assessment in support of police, &c., was—£2 and under £3, sixpence per £1; £3 and under £5, ninepence per £1; £5 and upwards, one shilling per £1. The following table gives us a view of the state of crime, as judged by the Magistrates, from 1807 to 1818:—

	1807.	1808.	1809.	1810.	1811.	1812.	1813.	1814.	1815.	1816.	1817.	1818.
Persons convicted of breaches of the peace,...	218	267	144	169	134	106	94	167	113	144	146	202
Cases of theft,.....	4	16	16	5	11	11	9	19	25	40	40	68
Persons convicted of swindling	2	1	2	1	—	2	1	1	—	2	4	11
Persons fined for profanation of the Sabbath,...	—	13	7	5	—	—	—	5	8	10	21	27
Persons convicted of vending base money, ..	—	2	3	2	6	6	4	4	8	7	4	3
Cases of house-breaking,.....	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	3	2	3	8	6
Persons convicted of reset of theft,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	4
Cases of murder, ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Robberies on the streets or in the vicinity of the town,.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	3	2	—

Breaches of the Peace.—Under this head are included only those who suffered punishment either by fine or imprisonment. Cases of a trivial nature dismissed are not inserted. The greatness of the numbers in the first two years is accounted for partly by the opposition at first offered to the police force, as it imposed a greater restraint on the turbulent; and partly by the number of strangers employed at the canal, who frequently got drunk and became riotous.

Cases of Theft.—This table only includes those in which there were convictions. The table only shows the number of cases, and not the number of thieves.

Profanation of the Sabbath.—Under this head are included landlords of public-houses for keeping company in their houses till advanced hours on Sunday mornings.

Murder.—This was the case of a person found in a close at night with marks of serious injury on the head, which caused death on the same afternoon. The Sheriff, after an investigation, offered a reward for the murderer; but the wounds may have been caused by a fall.

Robberies.—For the single case in 1814 one man suffered death; in some of the other cases the culprits were undiscovered.

To operate as a check on public begging, now and then those found in the act were apprehended and brought before the Magistrates. Those taken on the 3rd May, 1817, may be held as a specimen. They are as follows:—

The number on that day was,	...	...	...	53
Of whom were Irish,	...	...	39	
Belonging to the Burgh,	...	...	1	
From different parts of Scotland,	...	...	13	
			—	53

(Published Statement in 1820 by Provost William Carlike).

The following is an abstract of the published income and expenditure of the Burgh Police establishment for the year 1816-17:—

INCOME.

Money advanced for lamplighting at last balance,	£16	13	1
Assessments received,	1231	7	8
Fines,	31	15	6
Manure,	17	5	0
Owing the Union Bank, ...	£121	7	8
Due the Bank at last balance, ...	114	7	10
		6	19 10
Advanced by the Treasurer and Accounts not paid,		40	11 8
			<hr/>
			£1344 12 9

EXPENDITURE.

New lamps and repairs,	£27	10	0
Lighting 405 lamps, 22 weeks 5 days, between 7th September, 1816, and 26th March, 1817, at 7½d. per week,	£287	9	6
Lighting 3 lamps, 19 weeks 1 day, at 7½d. per week,	1	15	11
Lighting 5 lamps, 15 weeks 6 days, at 7½d. per week,	2	9	6
Lighting 93 lamps, from 5th till 25th April, 1817,	7	0	0
Lighting 93 lamps, from 13th till 20th August, 1817,	2	18	0
	<hr/>		
		301	12 11
Salary of Superintendent of Police, Collector, and Treasurer,	£100	0	0
Salary of Clerk,	15	0	0
Do. 2 sergeants, at £45,	90	0	0
Wages of 4 corporals, at 12s. per week,	124	16	0
Wages of 12 watchmen, at 10s. per week,	312	0	0
Substitutes and extra men on particular occasions,	12	8	6
	<hr/>		
		654	4 6
Repairs of watch-boxes,	2	7	6
Clothing for officers and watchmen,	40	16	1
Scavengers and carting manure,	89	19	0
Stationery, printing, coal, oil, surveyor, street improvements, prosecuting for assessments, &c.,	221	15	1
Interest paid Union Bank,	6	7	8
	<hr/>		
		£1344	12 9

The proprietors of the Coffee or Reading-Room in Moss Street, finding the accommodation to be insufficient for the number of members who were attending it, resolved, in 1807, to acquire ground on which to erect a new and larger building. The additional capital required was £9000, which was at once raised by a new company in 1200 shares of £7 10s. each. The present handsome building on the east side of the Cross, with its elegant front to High Street, was erected from drawings supplied by Messrs. Nicholson & Reid, architects. The Reading Room, which is beautifully finished, is 61 feet long, 45 feet broad, at side walls 20 feet high, and in the centre 28 feet high. The old Coffee Room and shop adjoining were sold by public roup, on 6th October, 1808, and realized £1201. It was perhaps quite proper to call the Reading Room, while it formed part of the chief inn, the Coffee-Room; but it was very strange to

continue that name after its removal to separate premises in Moss Street. And it is still more extraordinary that such an inappropriate name should be perpetuated in its application to the entire new range of buildings. During the erection of the building, the Town Council resolved to hold a jubilee on the 50th anniversary of King George III.'s accession to the throne on 25th October, 1809, and as the large room in the Saracen's Inn was found to be too small to accommodate the 140 gentlemen who were to dine on that occasion, the dinner took place in the new Reading Room. This jubilee was celebrated in a most harmonious, loyal, and imposing manner, and was conducted according to a programme prepared by the Council. The following graphic account of this jubilee is taken from the records of the Old Weavers' Society :—

“ This day being the anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne, and the commencement of the fiftieth year of his reign, it was natural to expect that an era so interesting would not pass without an unusual display of loyalty and patriotism among the inhabitants of Paisley, and that attachment to the Constitution and respect for our venerable monarch should show themselves in suitable expressions of joy and satisfaction. Accordingly, at eight in the morning, flags were hoisted, and the public bells were rung from eight till ten. At eleven, the Magistrates and Council and others assembled in the Council Chambers—the managers of the after-mentioned Corporations in the Court-hall, and the officers, &c., of the Militia regiment at the Cross—for the purpose of walking to the church in procession. Immediately thereafter, the procession moved in the following order :—(1). The Magistrates and Council, preceded by the town officers with their halberts and a band of music, and accompanied by William Macdowal, Esq. of Garthland, Lord-Lieutenant of the County and M.P. for the County ; Alex. Porterfield, Esq. of Duchal, and Robert Fulton, Esq. of Hartfield, Deputy-Lieutenant ; Boyd Alexander, Esq. of Southbar, and Alex. Campbell, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute. (2). Colonel M'Kerrell and the other officers of the 3rd Regiment of Renfrewshire Local Militia. (3). Permanent staff of the 2nd R.L.M. (4). Incorporation of Tailors ; Incorporations of Weavers, of Maltmen, of Wrights, of Merchants, of Fleshers, and of Hammermen. The procession occupied the front and second seats in the galleries of the High Church, where they heard an excellent and appropriate sermon preached by the Rev. John Findlay, from 1st Tim. xi., 1, 2.—‘ I exhort therefore that first of all supplications, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men. For kings and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all Godliness and honesty.’ The procession, in returning from the church, had to pass through an immense crowd which the novelty of the scene had collected ; and, after marching round the whole square of the market-place, they dismissed opposite the Council Chambers. At two o'clock, the Magistrates, Council, Lord-Lieutenants, and a number of the County gentlemen, drank His Majesty's health and that of the Royal Family on the

jail stair-head—a party of the third regiment R.L.M. firing a volley after each toast. The bells were rung from two till four. At four, 140 gentlemen sat down to a subscription dinner in the new Coffee-Room—the Lord-Lieutenant in the chair. This party consisted of the Magistrates, Council, the most wealthy inhabitants, and a considerable number of county gentlemen. There were many private dining parties in the different inns, and the inhabitants spent the day in festivity and conviviality, with a propriety of conduct highly creditable to themselves and suitable to the memorable occasion. The bells were again rung from 7 till 9 p.m., and the greatest good order prevailed, though in the evening vast crowds thronged the streets. Mr. Pattison, the boxmaster of this society, being in England, James Brown, eldest deacon in the management, acted as boxmaster of this incorporation.”

We have not been able to discover from the Council records or any other authentic source when the “West Port” was removed. On 7th November, 1807, the Council agreed to dispose of the Almshouse with the “wee steeple,” by public roup, “under reservation of the clock, bell, and lead work about the steeple, and all the metal and apparatus.”¹ The property was accordingly sold on 24th December following, and realised £512. There was a public arched passage through the Almshouse leading to Oakshaw Street, and known by the name of the “Pen Brae.” Sometime previous to this, Orr Street was formed, and the Council agreed that “as the road from West Steeple to Oakshawhead is no longer useful in consequence of the opening of Orr Street, the feuars in which have given their consent to its being employed as a public passage, the Council gave orders for presenting to the Quarter Sessions the necessary application for procuring authority for shutting up and discontinuing the said road.” The present Orr Street and passage to the north is still sometimes called, by the older inhabitants, the “Pen Brae.”

A very curious proposal was sent to the Council regarding the supplying of the inhabitants with fish. On 25th August, 1807, “a letter from Mr. Robert Boyd, Largs, soliciting a premium for supplying the town with fish, was read, and the Clerk was appointed to write to him to learn what sum he expects and what premium he is to receive from Glasgow.” This matter is not, however, referred to again.

At the different fairs prior to 1809, it appears that the amusements, stands for the sale of confections and goods of almost every kind, along with the other accompaniments of a public fair, all found place at the Cross. The shopkeepers around the Cross

¹ Mr. Love, who built Hope Temple in Love Street, bought the bell and clock from the Council for £14, and placed them in the spire there, and also the weather-cock, which he placed on the top of the spire.

objected to this, and petitioned the Council to remove this grievance. "After long deliberation on the subject, they resolved by a great majority that the four public fairs held annually within the burgh shall be henceforth discontinued at the Cross, and held in Caledonia Street, James Street, and James Place betwixt James Street and Moss Street, and public notification of this alteration of long-established usage was appointed to be given by proclamation by the town officers, circulation of printed bills, and advertisements in some of the newspapers" (*Council Records*, 17th November, 1809).

The Paisley Philosophical Society was instituted on 25th September, 1809, by a few intelligent and energetic gentlemen belonging to the town, who were animated with the very proper desire of promoting scientific study. On that date, the first record was as follows:—At a meeting of the Paisley Philosophical Society, held in their lecture-room, it being the first Monday after the autumnal equinox, the following members attended: William Waterston, Andrew Young, Malcolm Lang, Thomas Hutchison, Thomas Auld, James Duncan, Allan King, Gilbert Smith, Rev. William Ferrier, Alexander Carlile. The business for which the meeting was convened was commenced by the President reading over the articles or regulations of the society, when, after being debated and corrected, they were unanimously agreed to, and ordered to be printed. Afterwards the society proceeded to the election of managers for the year ensuing, when they made choice of the Rev. William Ferrier as president, Messrs. Alexander Carlile as secretary, William Robertson as treasurer, and Thomas Hutchison, Andrew Young, and Thomas Auld, directors. The second meeting was held on Monday, 2nd October following, when the Rev. William Ferrier delivered a lecture on the subject of Philosophical research, which is thus described in the minute-book—"On this subject he proposed to advert to several topics, but confined himself at present to the general character of philosophy. He spoke of the meaning of the term philosophy, showed that philosophy is the knowledge of what is first in nature, that nothing can be admitted as philosophic truth but what is supported by proper evidence, that philosophic truth is ascertained by observation and experiment, that philosophy is conversant with the whole phenomena in nature, which may all be reduced to two kinds—viz., existences and events—that it is the object of the philosopher to attend to the character and circumstances of particular existences and particular events, to compare among themselves the phenomena in each of these great divisions, in order to mark wherein they agree and wherein they differ, and in order to arrange them by their circumstances of agreement into classes, general and subordinate."

During the remainder of this session, the lectures were delivered as follows:—

Allan King — Attractions.

Thomas Hutchison — Physical Properties of Light.

David Allan — Hydrostatics and Hydraulics.
 Gilbert Smith — Chemical Property of Light.
 Robert Laird — Anatomy and Physiology.
 Archibald Duncan — Botany.
 Thomas Hunter — Mechanics.
 James Laird — Electricity.
 Thomas Auld — Moral Philosophy.
 Robert Laird — Anatomy.
 Archibald Carlile — Structure of the Earth, &c.
 James Thomson — Latent Heat.
 Andrew Ferrier — Volcanoes.
 James Kerr — Mode of Teaching Chemistry.

(*Records of the Society.*)

Such were the practical and scientific subjects treated of during the first year of this society, which now holds such a praiseworthy and important position among the associations of the town.

On 26th February, 1810, Messrs. Robert Watt and Hugh Vallance were, on the proposal of Mr. Andrew Young, admitted members. The former is well known as Dr. Robert Watt, author of *Bibliotheca Britannica*, who was a medical practitioner in Paisley. It is not stated in what place these lectures were delivered, but we learn from the records of the society that on 24th September, 1810, the members for the first time “assembled in their new hall in Sneddon Street” (this was a back building, now No. 7 Old Sneddon Street). By this time, they had collected and acquired a good many articles to form a museum, and on the 3rd of the following month they agreed “that the museum shall be open to the public every day between the hours of one and two o’clock.” Mr. Young was appointed superintendent of the museum, and Mr. Thomas Hunter of the apparatus, for the ensuing year. During the second session — 1810-11 — twelve lectures were delivered by the members; and on 23rd September, 1811, the treasurer laid before the meeting a statement of the cash transactions for the past year, the expenditure being £113 4s. 11d. and the receipts £112 13s. 2d. The society was now so firmly established that the members deemed it proper to apply to the Magistrates and Town Council to be incorporated by charter. The petition for charter states that the office-bearers, whose names are given, “and several other persons belonging to the town and neighbourhood had been united since the year 1808 into a society denominated the Paisley Philosophical Institution, established for the purpose of promoting the theoretical and practical knowledge of philosophy. That at their meetings essays were delivered, experiments exhibited, and conversations maintained by the members upon philosophical subjects agreeably to certain rules which had been made for the government of the society. That by purchase and donations the society had acquired an experimental apparatus, a museum of natural and artificial curiosities, and a library, to each of which additions were being made from time to time.

That, owing to the increasing number of its members, the institution had been gradually rising in importance, and promised to be highly beneficial not only to its own members but also to the community at large. That it was their opinion that the society should be incorporated, with power to acquire and possess property, to prosecute by the name of the Paisley Philosophical Institution, to make laws for the management of its funds, and to establish other rules for conducting the affairs and promoting the objects of the society." The Magistrates and Council granted a charter accordingly, "declaring that, in the event of the dissolution of the said corporation, all its collections and effects of every description shall devolve upon and belong in trust for the public to those individuals who shall then and thenceforth in succession constitute the medical department of the united establishment of the Dispensary and House of Recovery in Paisley, the Committee of Management of the Coffee-Room in Paisley, and the Curators of the Library of Paisley, instituted in 1803, under which provision and declaration this our charter is especially granted." The charter is dated 28th September, 1812.

Every succeeding session, down to about 1818, the reading of essays was continued with great regularity by both old and new members. In the session of 1818-19, Mr. William Motherwell, the poet, read an essay on Metaphysics, and in the following session he read, as the records state, "an elaborate essay on the Scottish language." He afterwards read another essay on the same subject. On 18th October, 1819, seventeen members resigned, the reason assigned by them being that "they found it entirely out of their power, or at all events very inconvenient, to attend the meetings." But twenty members still remained, and the entry-money was fixed at one guinea. In the following year, a sufficient number of members could not be got to give lectures; and the president, Mr. George Miller, at a meeting held on 30th September, stated "that in consequence of the laxity of many of the members, not only in reading essays before the institution, but in their marked indifference as to attendance, it became a matter of necessity to resort to some new measures for the purpose of keeping the society together. This neglect on the part of many of the members, he considered, was owing in great degree to the little certainty they have of hearing essays regularly delivered in the hall. To obviate all this, he deemed it expedient that a stated lecturer should be provided." The members present were of the same opinion; and some time afterwards, Mr. John Steele, practical chemist, Greenock, was chosen to give a course of lectures on Natural Philosophy. At this time thirty-one new members joined the society. On 9th August, 1822, the Directors agreed to forward an address to King George IV. on the occasion of His Majesty's visit to Scotland. On 9th December, 1822, "a vote of thanks was given to Mr. Henning, London, for his gift of a set of valuable casts from the Elgin marbles," and he was also chosen an honorary member of the insti-

tution. Mr. John Kennedy, teacher, Paisley, at this time offered his services as lecturer; and on 3rd November, 1823, he was elected to fill that position. It was arranged that he should give twenty-four lectures: ten on Astronomy, two on Optics, three on the Atmosphere, three on Electricity and Galvanism, two on Caloric, two on Water, and one on Gas. At a meeting on 27th December following, a letter from Mr. Kennedy was read, declining to be a candidate for the office of lecturer; and thereafter Mr. Murray was chosen lecturer for next session, at a salary of £100. The presidents during this period were as follows:—Rev. William Ferrier, in 1809, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1816; Rev. James Thomson, in 1810; Mr. Robert Laird, in 1811, 1817; Rev. Robert Burns, in 1815, 1818; Mr. George Miller, from 1819 till 1823; and Wm. Waterston, in 1824. The secretaries were Alexander Carlile, in 1809, 1814; Rev. William Ferrier, in 1810, 1811; Alexander Simpson, in 1812, 1813; Dr. Rodman, in 1815; Rev. R. Burns, in 1816, 1817; George Miller, in 1818; William Waterston, in 1819; William Motherwell, from 1820 till 1823; and Robert Wylie, in 1824.

The first Paisley Directory published in Paisley after Mr. John Tait's in 1783, already referred to, was compiled by Mr. William Bell, teacher in the Low Parish School, Storie Street, in 1810. He published it for that year only. The next Directory was published in 1812 by Mr. C. Gilroy, teacher of writing and accounts, Cross, Paisley. Besides a list of names, it contains a great deal of interesting and useful information relating to that period. So far as we can discover, there was a lapse of seven years before another Directory was published—viz., that by George Ritchie in 1819 and 1820. As his own name does not appear in his book, the probability is that he did not carry on any business in the town. The Directory which followed was published in 1823 by Robert Biggar. He was the collector of police assessments, and resided at No. 23 Love Street. Four years passed without the publication of any Directory in Paisley. In 1827, Mr. George Fowler, bookseller, commenced to publish a Directory, and continued to do so every year for the long period of twenty-seven years. His last volume was for 1853-54. His first Directory consisted of 96 pages, and his last one of 178 pages. This arose from the increase in the population, the introduction of additional matter, and the inclusion of the names of those residing in Johnstone and Quarrelton.¹ More than one Directory was started in rivalry with Mr. Fowler's. In July, 1840, Messrs. Dick & Macfarlane published a Paisley Directory for 1840-41, the inhabitants being classified according to their professions, and not according to surnames, in alphabetical order. A chart of the streets was also given. In 1844, Messrs. Biggar & Macfarlane, booksellers,

¹ Mr. Fowler published in 1834, in pamphlet form, the historical and descriptive sketches of the towns and principal villages in the Upper Ward of Renfrewshire which had already appeared in his Directory.

Cross, published a Directory ; and in 1848 Mr. Matthew Spreull, residing at Linwood, brought out a Directory. After the publication of Mr. Fowler's last Directory, four years elapsed before any one undertook the publication of another. In 1857, Mr. Peter Hinshelwood, auctioneer, issued a Directory, and continued to do so annually till 1862. In the following year—1862-63—Mr. Richard Watson, proprietor of the *Paisley Herald*, commenced to publish a Directory, and continued to do so yearly till his death in 1880. His last volume was for 1880-81, and the publication was continued by his son, Mr. W. B. Watson, till 1883-84, when Messrs. J. & J. Cook, the proprietors of the *Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette*, purchased the copyright of the Directory along with the plant of the *Paisley Herald*. Mr. James Winning, accountant, published a Paisley Directory for 1864-65 and 1866-67. There were only 210 pages in Watson's first Directory, and the last consisted of 376 pages. Much useful and interesting information was added to the work during that period, and in the Directory for 1883-84 a map of the town within the Parliamentary boundary was introduced for the first time. That and subsequent issues included names of persons residing in Renfrew, Johnstone, Elderslie, Thornhill, Quarrelton, Balaclava, Clippens, Inkermann, and Linwood.

At the end of last century, and also during the period embraced in this chapter, several societies of different kinds were established, all having for their aim the advancement of the interests and the amelioration of the condition of the humbler classes. The Widow and Orphan Society was formed in 1776. From its yearly subscriptions and other sources of income, it contributed money, provisions, and coals. The Female Benevolent Society was established in 1811. Its income in 1812 was about £300, and it was most beneficial in assisting aged and indigent females, and particularly in giving clothing to aged females. In that year, 534 were relieved (*Burns on the Poor Laws*, p. 22). The Female Union Society had also the same objects in view. The Female Bible Association was instituted in 1819. There was a branch for the Abbey and one for the three town parishes. In 1820-21, the total sum available for the purchasing of Bibles was £223. There was also instituted on 31st March, 1817, a society in Paisley and its vicinity for Gaelic missions to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The object of the society was the diffusion of Divine knowledge ; and the office-bearers and missionaries consisted of persons of every denomination holding Evangelical sentiments.

In the first decade of this century, a marvellous number of Friendly Societies was established which adopted local or street names. During their continuance, they were of great benefit to their distressed members ; but many of them, after a brief existence, disappeared. This was in consequence of their being founded upon erroneous principles. The great number of these societies, and the

able support they received from the inhabitants, along with the considerable sums they paid annually, will be best understood from the following statement :—

Journeyman Societies.—Brewers, Ayrshire, Prince, Sandholes, Paisley Gardeners, Widow and Orphans, Croft, Maxwellton, Cumberland. These nine Journeyman Societies expended in support of their members—in 1805, £666 16s. 4d.; in 1806, £502 11s. 1d.; in 1807, £516 11s. 7d.; in 1808, £528 11s. 5d.; in 1809, £455 1s.;—making an average expenditure for each year of £543 13s. 5d.

Friendly Societies.—Moss Row, Paisley Old, Cumberland, Paisley Union, Causeyside, New Street, Re-United, Sneddon, Sawyers, Journeyman Wrights, Maxwellton, New Maxwellton, New and Old Town, Young Sneddon, Croft, Ferguslie, Gordon's Loan, Storie Street, Seedhills, Middle Aged, Smithhills and Loan Wells, Newtown, Strangers, United, Bedfast and Funeral, Journeyman Tailors, John Street, High Street. These twenty-six Friendly Societies expended in the support of their distressed members—in 1805, £407 2s. 11d.; in 1806, £451 16s. 11d.; in 1807, £435 13s. 5d.; in 1808, £448 18s. 7d.; in 1809, £478 8s.;—being an average expenditure for each year of £443 19s. 11d. (*Glasgow Newspaper* in November, 1810).

The Paisley Ayrshire Society, whose stock amounted to about £600, held a meeting on 30th August, 1811, to consider their condition. They found that, from the depressed state of the times, by continuing their present aliment the funds would in a short time be reduced to a state similar to that of some of the other societies of the same nature, which were now unable to pay any aliment. Some of them, indeed, were completely annihilated. They agreed to reduce the aliment as nearly as could be calculated to the existing income of the society. They also resolved to levy money from the members to enable them to resume, as soon as possible, the payment of the former aliment.

In 1811, there were seventeen fleshers carrying on business in the town, and the number of animals slaughtered for them at the public shambles stood thus—Cows, 1937; calves, 1640; sheep, 2561; lambs, 4091; and hogs, 145;—in all, 10,374. The dues charged by the Council was sixpence for each cow; one penny for each calf, sheep, and hog; and one halfpenny for each lamb. The greatest number slaughtered for one flesher was for Robert Braid—namely, 1516—and the next highest was for Robert Speirs, the number being 1273. The total dues received in that year by the Council was £75 1s. 1½d.

We have already more than once referred to periods of severe depression of trade in the town, and the distress thereby caused to the working population. In 1811, trade generally throughout the

country was in a very unsatisfactory condition, and the depression was severely felt in the town by both manufacturers and operatives. At the commencement of that year, the sufferings of many of the working-classes through inability to obtain employment was very great. A meeting of the inhabitants, at the request of the Magistrates, was held in the Court-House on 4th February in that year, for the purpose of devising measures for the relief of the unemployed operatives. The meeting agreed that immediate and efficient measures should be adopted for relieving the wants and alleviating the distress of many of the working-classes, which from various causes they "experienced to an extent unprecedented in the town." The meeting was numerously attended, a large committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions, and, in consequence of the immediate pressure of distress upon the poor, they were authorised to apply a sum not exceeding £200 for their relief. Among those solicited for subscriptions were the Marquis of Abercorn, Earl of Glasgow, and Lord Douglas, as they owned lands in the immediate neighbourhood of the town. Public collections were also made in all the churches and places of worship in the town, under the sanction of the Magistrates, who were also desired by the committee to appoint proper persons to wait on the farmers in the district for contributions of produce to the fund. Owners of coal works were also solicited for donations of coals. On 25th February—three weeks after the first meeting was held—Mr. Barclay, the treasurer, reported that the subscriptions amounted to upwards of £825. On the 8th of the following month, it was intimated that 459 pecks of oatmeal, 405 pecks of potatoes, and £14 11s. 2d. in cash, had been distributed to the unemployed in the previous week (*Minutes of Relief Committee*). Part of the Canal between Paisley and Glasgow was unfinished. When the Town Council, on 14th June, petitioned Parliament and memorialised the Chancellor of the Exchequer, among other things they stated "that for many months bygone the trade and manufactures of this large commercial town have been subjected to a degree of depression and limitation hitherto unprecedented, and, from whatever causes originating, the revival of them is an idea which the memorialists lament to say cannot at the present moment be with any kind of security indulged; that the operative classes of the community have with laudable resignation yielded to the severe privation inevitably consequent upon the present distressed state of commercial affairs, and the most liberal and beneficent subscriptions have from time to time been procured from the opulent portion of the inhabitants for the relief of those who were either altogether unemployed or whose wages, in consequence of the unexampled reduction of prices, were totally inadequate to support themselves; that these resources, although distributed with the most judicious economy and discrimination, are now nearly exhausted; and the memorialists, as guardians of the public comfort and tranquility, deprecate the alarming effects which may result from habits of idleness in a hitherto industrious popula-

tion consisting of many thousands." The memorialists afterwards go on to state that, looking about for employment to the operatives, the canal not being finished, "they suggest that a portion of the funds of the Government could not be more properly and usefully invested than in the completion of the canal." Such money as might be advanced would be afterwards refunded. The records do not state what was the reply to this application, but it must have been unfavourable. After a time, trade gradually improved; and on the 14th January, 1812, when there was rather more than £11 in the treasurer's hands, the committee agreed that the balance, whatever it might turn out to be, should be paid over to the managers of the Female Benevolent Society.

In December, 1812, it appears that trade had so much revived, that illegal combinations of operative weavers had been to a large extent entered into for the purpose of compelling their employers to raise their wages, and in prosecuting their aims they struck work in a body. The Sheriff of Renfrewshire, Magistrates of Paisley, and Justices of the County issued a proclamation, dated the 17th of that month, strictly prohibiting all such illegal combinations, and admonishing and enjoining all operative weavers to return to their work without delay, with certification that the law shall be vigorously enforced against all offenders. As various friendly societies within the county had voted away their funds to support persons engaged in these combinations, the proclamation earnestly made recommendation to all persons to give no pecuniary assistance to any persons that are able but not willing to work; and declared that all such appropriations of the funds of friendly societies were contrary to law. The proclamation strictly prohibited all persons from molesting or intimidating weavers who are working or disposed to work, and declared that the full protection of the law would be given to all persons persevering in habits of honest industry; and renewed the offer of a reward of £20 (contained in the proclamation of the 11th of that month) to anyone who would give the desired information against offenders.

In our last chapter, we pointed out the number of public carriers connected with Paisley and several other towns about the end of the last century, as indicating the amount of intercourse between these towns and Paisley. It is not difficult to detect the principal causes for so extensive a traffic. Notwithstanding the number of weavers in Paisley, they were unable to execute all the work for which the manufacturers had orders; and hence the latter employed handloom weavers not only in the villages of Renfrewshire, but in many of those of Ayrshire. This traffic did not consist merely in the carrying of webs and material connected therewith, for this intercourse led to a large traffic in other goods purchased from the Paisley shopkeepers. Some of the Paisley manufacturers did not employ any Paisley weavers at all, but had agents in the villages who got

work executed for them. This largely tended to increase also the business of the public carrier. The following gives the carriers' quarters in Paisley, with times of arrival and departure. It shows an immense increase as compared with 1783:—

Beith — Arrives at Daniel Wright's, High Street, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and departs same day. *Beith and Saltcoats* — At Daniel Wright's, High Street, on Monday and Thursday, at 10 o'clock, and departs at half-past 3 o'clock the same day. *Busby* — At John Muir's, foot of New Street, weekly. *Dalry* — At James Currie's, head of Dyer's Wynd, on Tuesday, between 10 and 11 forenoon, for Glasgow; returns from Glasgow on Wednesday between 2 and 3 afternoon; departs for Dalry same day. *Edinburgh* — From John Campbell's, New Smithhills, on Tuesday, and returns on Saturday. *Glasgow* — From James Shearer's, West Street; Adam M'Cargow's, Smithhills; Robert Aitken's, Wellmeadow; John Taylor's, Gauze Street; William Burnside's, Abbey Close, between 12 and 1 o'clock afternoon, daily; arrives at James Currie's at half-past 4 o'clock afternoon, and departs at half-past 7. *Greenock and Port-Glasgow* — From John Russell's, Causeyside, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 11 o'clock forenoon; returns on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 4 o'clock afternoon. *Houston* — At Robert Rowan's, New Street, on Thursday, at 10 o'clock. *Johnstone* — At Peter Ferguson's, High Street, daily. *Irvine* — At Robert Rowan's, New Street, on Monday and Friday, and departs on Tuesday and Saturday; and at Mrs. Wilson's, vintner, High Street, on Tuesday and Friday at 8 o'clock morning, and departs on Wednesday at 3 afternoon and Saturday at 6 morning. *Kilbarchan* — At Robert Rowan's, New Street, at 1 o'clock, and departs at 6 afternoon; and at Mrs. Wilson's, vintner, High Street, daily. *Kilbirnie* — At James Currie's, on Tuesday and Saturday, from 10 till 3 o'clock. *Kilmarnock and Stewarton* — From Hugh Whyte's, Causeyside, on Tuesday and Friday; returns on Wednesday and Saturday. *Kilwinning* — At Robert Rowan's, New Street, on Tuesday and Thursday; departs Wednesday and Friday. *Largs* — At D. Buchanan's, St. George's Inn, Moss Street, on Tuesday, and departs on Wednesday. *Lochwinnoch* — At George Murray's, Salutation Inn, High Street, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 11 o'clock, and departs same day at 3 afternoon; and at Mrs. Wilson's, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. *Mauchline* — At Robert Rowan's, New Street, once every fourteen days. *Neilston* — At Daniel Wright's, High Street, on Thursday; and at John Muir's, foot of New Street, on Thursday and Friday. *Newmills* — At Robert Rowan's on Tuesday, and departs on Wednesday. *Saltcoats* — At Robert Rowan's, on Monday and Tuesday, and departs on Thursday and Friday. *Saltcoats and Stevenston* — At Alexander Alexander's, Wellmeadow Street, Tuesday and Friday, and departs on Wednesday and Saturday (*Gilroy's Directory*, 1812, p. 76).

In the early part of this century a Humane Society was established ; and we find the Council, on an application from the preses, the Rev. Mr. Ferrier, consenting to "accommodate them with ground at the Slate Quay for the temporary lodgment of one of their boats." In 1812 the president was William Carlile; the secretary, Robert M'Kechnie; the treasurer, David Wallace; and there were besides thirteen directors. A boat, with instruments for saving those in danger of drowning, was stationed at the Brick-Kilns, at Slate Quay, and at High Linn; and each was under the management of from seven to ten persons who resided in these localities. There were also medical apparatus at the Town's Hospital, at the House of Recovery, and at the shop of Gavin Browning, druggist, Cross (*Gilroy's Directory* for 1812).

Sometime after 1823, and prior to 1835, this useful society ceased to exist; and on 2nd April in the latter year a public meeting of the inhabitants was held in the Court Hall, for considering the great necessity there was for establishing a Humane Society. The meeting agreed to raise subscriptions for procuring boats and other necessary apparatus for the preservation of human life and searching for bodies in cases of drowning. Besides a committee to collect subscriptions, a working committee was also appointed. In September, 1836, the society petitioned the Council for money in addition to the £5 formerly subscribed, as the implements that had been bought were in a state of disrepair. The Council declined to give any more money, but some of the members promised to subscribe. In the following year, Mr. Hastie, M.P., gave £10; and although this liberality helped to infuse new life into the society, yet it did not continue for any length of time.

Paisley, in this period, appears to have been well provided with teachers. In 1812, there were, in addition to those in the town's schools, the following private teachers:—John Barbour, Carriage-hill; George Barr, Storie Street; John Begg, Seedhills; Peter Cunningham, teacher of mathematics, Love Street; Monsieur Despreaux, French teacher, New Street; James Drummond, Moss Street; James Fergus, Abbey Street; J. Forrester, teacher of mathematics, &c., Gauze Street; Archd. Galbreath, West Brae; John Gemmel, New Sneddon Street; C. Gilroy, Cross; James Goldie, High Street; John Millar, Brown's Lane; William Montgomerie, Cross Street; William Porteous, teacher of drawing, Inle Street; John Taylor, Abbey Close; Thomas Taylor, Old Sneddon Street; Alex. Taylor, Gauze Street; Misses Twigg, Gauze Street; and John Young, Broomlands. The poor children in the Town's Hospital were taught by Thomas Crichton.

The Magistrates reported to the Council on 19th May, 1812, that this was the period when the town-officers and town-drummer usually received new uniform dresses. The Council agreed that such should be given to three of them, and the Magistrates were

authorised to examine the quality of the cloth. As the fourth officer was in some respects a pensioner on the community, a renewal of uniform was not necessary in his case. They also "voted that Walter Peacock, town-drummer, should receive breeches, vest, and hat." "It having been remarked that the officers and drummer have of late years often appeared in their official capacity without their uniform dress, it was recommended to the Magistrates to insist in their instructions that they be attended to in future; and the names be reported to the Council of those who fail to pay respect to their orders in this particular." The town-officers have down to the present time received suits of uniform from the Town Council. There is now no town-drummer, and even the town-bellman is seldom heard,—other modes of giving publicity having superseded them.

Public whipping through the streets, and exposure on the tollbooth stairhead or on the pillory, were punishments which, as we have already shown, were frequently inflicted. On 18th February, 1812, Claud Wilson, weaver, and Andrew Rowan, tanner, Paisley, were convicted by a jury of stealing a quantity of oil from the works of Mr. John Bell, jun., Croft, Paisley. Sheriff Campbell sentenced them "to be taken back to prison, to remain there till 5th March following, and upon that day to be carried to some conspicuous part of the public street at or near the Market Cross, such as the Magistrates of Paisley shall appoint, at twelve noon, and to be then and there exposed to the public on the pillory for the full space of one hour, with their hands fastened behind them, and with an inscription hung upon the breast of each bearing in large and legible printed or painted characters the word 'Thief,' and afterwards banished from the county during their lifetime; with certification that, if they returned, they were to be publicly whipped upon the outer stairhead of the tollbooth, each receiving 100 stripes." The Magistrates of Paisley were ordained to see this sentence carried into effect. A curious case arose out of this decision. The Magistrates objected to carry the sentence into effect, and appealed to the Lords of Justiciary to be relieved from doing so, on the ground that the Sheriff should carry out his own decree, as the theft was committed without the burgh, and "as they were not disposed to undertake the degrading office." They besides held that, if they were "to superintend the pillory scene, it follows of course that they must direct the flogging should the delinquents return, and employ the executioner and defray all expenses. The erection of a scaffold will alone cost a good many pounds, besides gratuities to guards, &c. It were recognising an inferiority which the Magistrates are not inclined to acknowledge." The two men were, however, punished in accordance with the sentence of the Court, and the Magistrates and Council, by the decision of the Lords of Justiciary, had to carry it out.

On the 16th December, 1820, an atrocious attempt was made to

shoot Mr. John Orr, jun., in the house of Mr. William Orr, sen., Causeyside Street. On that evening he was visiting there; and being informed by the servant-girl that two men wished to speak to him at the door, he went thither, and on his arrival two shots were fired in. Two pistol bullets passed through the door on the side where it opens, and went into the plaster; and would have passed through Mr. Orr had he come in the line of them through the passage. Henry M'Connell, Owen Callaghan, Malcolm Cameron, and Hugh Lafferty, cotton-spinners, were apprehended and tried at the High Court of Justiciary for this daring offence. Cameron, for about three months before this, had been seen hanging about Mr. Orr's cotton-work, Underwood, occasionally getting employment, and had been working for the two days previous to the shooting. Lafferty had for a good many months been regularly employed by Mr. Orr as a spinner. There had been a reduction of wages by the Paisley manufacturers in April; the men therefore struck work about August, when they were making 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. a-day, in order to force the wages up to the old standard. Previously, several shots had been fired at Mr. Orr, one of which struck his house. The jury gave a verdict convicting M'Connell and Cameron as guilty, and Callaghan as art and part; and declared the libel not proven against Lafferty, who was dismissed from the bar. The other three prisoners were adjudged to be whipped through Paisley on 5th April following. When the day came round on which the three men were to be whipped, great excitement prevailed in the town. The Magistrates being fully aware that the novelty of the punishment would cause considerable curiosity, and believing that, as it was the Sacramental Fast-Day in Glasgow, many people would come from that city, they took every precaution to prevent tumult and disorder. A proclamation was extensively issued in which they enjoined parents and masters to keep their children and servants within doors during the whipping in case of accident, stating at the same time that they did not apprehend any confusion, as few would be so base as sympathise with hired assassins. Near midday the town began to be very densely thronged, and parties of the 3rd Dragoon Guards patrolled the streets. About one o'clock the Paisley sharpshooters and a company of cavalry paraded at the jail. Shortly before two o'clock the prisoners were brought out at the north door of the jail, handcuffed, with their coats hanging over their backs. They were bound to a strong plank that was fastened on the hind trams of a cart. The dragoons, aided by a detachment of the 41st Regiment, cleared the street of the spectators, and the cavalcade moved forward. The military preceded the horse and cart, which was followed by the police; then came the local and civil authorities and a party of infantry—a few dragoons closing the rear. The procession crossed the Sneddon Bridge, went up Lawn Street into Smithhills Street, and straight on till they came to the head of Mill Street, where they stopped. The infantry formed a line along the footpath, and the official attendants formed a line

on each side about twelve feet behind the cart, and a few dragoons kept back the crowd. By this arrangement, which was repeated at every place where the prisoners were whipped, the spectators behind and those on each side saw the infliction of the whipping. Cameron was first stripped. When his shirt was turned over his head upon his arms, the Glasgow executioner flourished a large cat-o'-nine-tails, and laid it smartly on the delinquent's shoulders. At Mill Street each of the three prisoners received fifteen lashes. Their shirts and hats were then put on, and the horse and cart moved slowly forward to the head of New Street, where the culprits received another series of fifteen lashes each. They were punished next at the Cross, afterwards at the foot of Moss Street, and they suffered the last infliction at the entrance to the jail next New Sneddon Street. They thus each received seventy-five lashes. Cameron, after the first stroke, stood firm to the repeated lashes; the other two shrank frequently; but not a single cry nor expression of pain escaped from any of the prisoners during their punishment. When they returned to the Jail they thanked God that the whipping was over; and Dr. Thomson proceeded immediately to dress their backs. The streets were uncommonly crowded, the shops were all shut, the doors and upper windows, closes, and cross-lanes were filled to excess with spectators, and an immense multitude preceded and followed the procession. No exclamation indicating disapprobation of the executors of the law or pity for the prisoners was made by the numerous spectators. Everything being done with great regularity, no accident happened. The military were dismissed when the prisoners were lodged in jail, the shops were opened, business went on as usual, and by six o'clock most of the strangers had left the town.

About three years afterwards, another man was whipped in the streets of Paisley for the commission of a crime arising also out of the dangerous combination among the cotton-spinners. Bernard Shirkin and John Morrison, cotton-spinners, Bridge of Weir, attacked William Kerr, cotton-spinner there, on the evening of the 25th November, 1823, when returning from his work to his own house in that village. While he was ascending the stair leading to his own house, they discharged a loaded pistol at him, and he was severely wounded. His life was at first despaired of, and he was long confined to bed. The two men were tried at Paisley before Sheriff Dunlop and a special jury on 25th May, 1824. It appeared in the course of the proceedings that the attempt to murder Kerr arose out of the fact that he had agreed to work as a cotton-spinner upon the wheels of another man whom his masters had thought fit to discharge, while an illegal and dangerous combination of workmen resolved his situation should not be occupied by another. The prisoners were found guilty, and sentenced to be confined in the bridewell of Paisley at hard labour; Morrison for eighteen, and Shirkin for twelve months, and afterwards banished from the County of Renfrew for life. Morrison was further to be scourged through

the streets of Paisley, on Thursday, the first of July, being the market-day, and to receive six dozen stripes on his naked body at the hands of the common hangman. On that day Morrison was brought out of the jail at twelve o'clock, and was bound to a cart which moved round to the front of the building, where the punishment commenced. Instead of the common executioner an old sailor was selected, who seemed in every way qualified for the disagreeable office. His face was so besmeared with black, white, and red paint, that he could not have been recognised by his most intimate acquaintances. At every lash he carefully separated the tails, and measured his distance with the most careful and cautious precision. Morrison received in all seventy-two lashes,—fifteen in front of the Jail; fifteen at the Cross; the same number at Lonewells; at the head of New Street; and lastly twelve at the Cross on the return of the procession. The seventh lash made him cry, but during the rest he was silent. The punishment was concluded at a quarter past one o'clock. Sheriff Campbell and the Magistrates were attended by a number of the special constables and police, and the streets were kept clear by two troops of the Enniskillen dragoons that were brought from Glasgow. All the shops were shut and business stopped along the line by which the procession passed. Although there was a heavy fall of rain at the time, the crowds of people in the streets were immense, and the windows were filled with spectators. No person manifested publicly the least sympathy for the culprit. On the contrary, such was the general abhorrence of the crime for which he was punished, that exclamations were occasionally heard to the effect, "He well deserves it all."

The subject of the assumption by the senior Bailie of the title of Provost was frequently considered by the Council. On 23rd September, 1811, Bailie Jamieson moved, "that on account of the respectability and augmented population of the town, he considered it highly expedient that the burgh should have a Provost, as authorised by the Charter of Erection, but which title he understood had never been assumed," but they agreed to discuss the motion at next Michaelmas Head Court. At that meeting they agreed to take the opinion of counsel, and authorised a memorial to be prepared for that purpose. The counsel consulted were Mr. Thomas Thomson, advocate, and Mr. John Dunlop, advocate. The opinions received were very similar. Mr. Dunlop's was as follows:—"Having considered this case, I am of opinion that the Town Council of the Burgh of Paisley are legally entitled to confer on their Chief Magistrate the name of Provost, instead of eldest Bailie, under which he has been hitherto elected. It is clear from the terms of the charters produced, that the power and faculty of choosing the Chief Magistrate by the designation of Provost, was bestowed by the granters and intended by them to be enjoyed by the predecessors of the memorialists. The only question therefore that remains, is whether this privilege has been lost, *non utendi*, in

such a manner that it cannot be now exercised. The right does not appear from its nature to be one capable of falling under any species of negative prescription. It seems to be a power which may be exercised or not at pleasure, as its assumption can make no alteration in the internal constitution of the burgh, nor in any shape affect the rights and privileges of others. Such being the case, I am not aware that the exercise of this power can be attended with any risk or damage to the Magistrates and burgh, or that any individual or public body is entitled to object to its adoption. (Signed) JOHN DUNLOP."

Hitherto the Bailies did not possess any distinctive badge for wearing when on duty. This matter was brought under the notice of the Council on 22nd October, 1811, when they were of opinion "that it was now highly befitting the respectability of the town and necessary for maintaining the dignity and distinction of office, that gold chains as now universally worn by the Magistrates of other towns of note in the country, should also be procured at the community's expense for the Magistrates of this burgh; but previous to coming to any decision," they appointed a committee to make inquiry as to the expense and to report. On the first of the following month the Council unanimously agreed that gold chains should be procured without delay, and authorised the Magistrates to receive estimates of the expense. On the 9th November following, the Magistrates "reported that, after considering the different estimates of tradesmen in Glasgow and Paisley for furnishing gold chains," they had "contracted with Mr. Hannay, jeweller in Paisley, whose offer was much the cheapest, and who had undertaken to furnish them of the best guinea gold, and executed in a handsome and suitable style." The cost of the gold chains with the accompanying badge for the Provost, and the same for each of the three Bailies, was £116 2s. 6d. The badges were all alike, but there was an extra loop of gold chain attached to the Provost's. By the Burgh Act of 1833, the number of Bailies was increased from three to four, and the youngest Bailie was without a gold chain and badge like the other Bailies. The Council did not remedy this defect; but at a meeting of Council held on 14th October, 1869, there appeared a deputation from a number of gentlemen belonging to Paisley, who — from a desire to provide the corporation with a gold chain and medal with which to invest the youngest Bailie when in office, and from the respect entertained towards Bailie Watson, the then youngest Bailie — had, from subscriptions raised, purchased a gold chain and medal similar to the chains worn by the other Bailies, with this exception, that the year "1869" was engraved on it. The gift was presented by Mr. P. C. Macgregor; and Provost Macfarlane, after accepting it on behalf of the corporation, moved that the thanks of the Council be voted to the subscribers. Thereafter Bailie Watson was invested with the chain. Bailie Watson was the proprietor and editor of the *Paisley Herald* newspaper. In June, 1881, the Council agreed to procure a new chain

and badge for the Provost; and at a meeting of Council held on the forenoon of the 30th January, 1882, before joining the procession at the opening of the Geo. A. Clark Town Hall, he was invested with it.¹ On this occasion Provost MacKean explained "that for many years it had been complained that the Chief Magistrate of the town had not insignia worthy of his office. It was all very good when lying in a drawer, but when displayed it was a very small affair. At other municipal gatherings, and especially in London, the Provost of Paisley was thrown entirely into the shade by the insignia of office displayed by other Chief Magistrates, so much so that he was fain to take off his and put it in his pocket." The Treasurer, who had no insignia of office, was invested with the Provost's old chain thus condemned by Provost MacKean. Treasurer Clark said no chain worn by any of the Magistrates was so much valued as the one he then had got to wear.

On 12th September, 1812, the Council resolved "that at the ensuing election the title of Provost should, in terms and under the sanction and authority of the Charter of Erection of the Burgh, be assumed by the eldest Bailie in addition to the present title and appellation." On 5th October following, "the old and new Council being met together, they elected and appointed Mr. John Orr to be Provost and eldest Bailie." At this election the Council, in terms of a resolution of 28th September previously, elected a fourth Bailie. The reasons assigned for doing so were these:—"The title of Provost being assumed by the Senior Magistrate, and from a consideration of the augmented population of the burgh, and the laborious and multitudinous duties which had now to be discharged by the Magistrates from the establishment of the police and numerous other sources," and because "they held it to be conformable to precedent and agreeable to the terms of the Charter of Erection."

A very singular occurrence took place at the election of Councillors and Magistrates in 1819. Mr. John Muir, who had been elected junior Magistrate, declined to accept of office, and the Council found him liable in the penalty of £20, as prescribed by Acts of Council already mentioned. Orders were given for recovery of this sum, and for debiting the Town Treasurer with the same (*Council Records*, 4th October, 1819). It does not appear that this sum was ever recovered. On 6th December in that year, the Council records state that a letter from Mr. Martin, writer, on behalf of Mr. John Muir, relative to the fine for non-acceptance of the office of Magistrate, having been read, the consideration of it was deferred till next meeting. On 26th June, 1821, the Clerk was directed to search for precedents of measures adopted in cases where Councillors elected refused to accept of office and to report. On 21st August following, the Clerk stated that he had searched the records for precedents for fining those who declined acceptance

¹ The new chain and badge cost £133 10s.

of the office of Councillor, but had not found any applicable to the cases of those who had previously acted in that situation. Fining for this particular offence is not further adverted to.

On the occasion of George IV.'s visit to Edinburgh in August, 1822, the Council voted an address to His Majesty, "expressing the feelings of pride and exultation which are experienced from your Royal consideration in visiting our ancient kingdom of Scotland, a portion of your Majesty's dominions which cannot fail to call many pleasing recollections to your Majesty's mind, and still distinguished for loyalty and regard for the august house from which your Majesty descends." The Magistrates were authorised to present this address to His Majesty at Edinburgh. On 30th August following, "the Provost (Wm. Carlile) reported that he and other Magistrates had, in pursuance of the appointment of last meeting, proceeded to Edinburgh for the purpose of representing the community on occasion of His Majesty's visit to Scotland, and with that view had secured lodgings in Queen Street, which they occupied for twelve days during their residence in town. That they had retained a coach, upon which the town's arms had been elegantly painted. That they had considered it necessary to employ four horses, and to procure liveries of scarlet cloth with blue facings, the proper and admitted uniform of the burgh officers, for the postilions and for two of the town's officers and a valet who accompanied them. That they had attended His Majesty's levee, when they had been received in the most gracious manner, and had the honour of kissing hands when the Provost had presented to the King in person the loyal address voted at last meeting. That on the night appointed for a general illumination, the windows of their lodgings had been lighted with wax candles. That they had been highly gratified by their mission on the occasion; and with due regard to economy, on account of the limited nature of the burgh funds, had omitted nothing which appeared to be essentially necessary on their part as representatives of a respectable community. The Provost also stated that as a member he had the honour of attending His Majesty when the address of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was presented." At a meeting of Council held on 28th September following, it was "unanimously voted by the Members of Council that the thanks of the community were deservedly due to the Provost and other Magistrates for proceeding to Edinburgh on occasion of His Majesty's visit to Scotland, and representing the corporation in respectable style,—to which the Provost, for himself and in name of his colleagues in office, made a suitable acknowledgment. And the Council were of opinion that the swords worn by the Magistrates on that occasion should be retained by them until required for some public occurrence hereafter." The total expenses connected with this visit to Edinburgh amounted to £205 3s. 7d.

In the creating of honorary burgesses the Council continued to

adhere to the custom latterly adopted of limiting considerably the exercise of their ancient prerogative. On 23rd January, 1807, they authorised the Magistrates to order a plate with a suitable inscription and devices for printing tickets to be given to persons who may thereafter enter as burgesses. On 22nd October, 1811, the Council "voted the freedom of the burgh to Edward Earl, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Customs for Scotland, on account of his exertions in promoting various works of high interest and utility to the country, and appointed an appropriate ticket to be transmitted to him." On 7th February, 1812, they agreed that in all instances which may hereafter occur, the fine or penalty known by the name of the "Stallinger fine," shall not be less than £1 1s., nor more than £2 2s., and that the same shall be required once every year from those who resist or neglect to enter as freemen after being warned in the usual manner to do so, and be recovered by action in the ordinary way. On 6th June, 1812, the Council conferred the freedom of the town on Captain Kenneth Snodgrass, of the 52nd regiment, son of the late Rev. Dr. Snodgrass, minister of the Middle Church, Paisley.¹ On 28th September, 1814, the Magistrates and Council, from considerations of personal deserts and meritorious conduct as an officer, conferred the freedom of the burgh on Captain John Orr, of His Majesty's 7th Regiment of Foot. On 2nd October, 1815, the Council voted the freedom of the burgh to John Connell, Esq., advocate, His Majesty's Sheriff-Depute of the County of Renfrew, and Alexander Campbell, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute, as a tribute of respect most deservedly due for unremitting diligence in the discharge of their official duties, and more particularly for the incessant exertions recently manifested by them in the adoption of measures for obtaining legislative authority for the erection and maintenance of a bridewell, jail, court-house, and public offices, for the Burgh of Paisley and County of Renfrew.² In August, 1816, Mr. William Barr, writer, wrote to the Council as follows:—"In

¹ In May, 1814, this gallant soldier, who had been raised to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, was presented with a handsome sword of the value of a hundred guineas, purchased from Messrs. Rundell, Bridges, & Rundell, London. The subscriptions for raising money to obtain the sword were restricted to half a guinea, and a sufficient sum was immediately got with almost no trouble. The sword was presented to Col. Snodgrass at a public dinner in the Renfrewshire Tontine, Paisley. The Earl of Glasgow occupied the chair, and Mr. Campbell of Blythwood acted as croupier. Mr. Speirs, M.P., and other subscribers, to the number of 150, were present. The following inscription was beautifully executed on the blade:—"To Lieutenant-Colonel Snodgrass. This sabre is presented by his townsmen of Paisley, joined by several noblemen and gentlemen in the vicinity, as an expression of high esteem for his character, and admiration of his distinguished services in the cause of his country and her allies." (Reverse) "St. Sebastian taken by storm, 31st August, 1813."

² When Sheriff Connell was afterwards appointed Judge Admiral of Scotland, the Council, on 5th August, 1816, transmitted an address to him, congratulating him upon his honourable and well-merited promotion, and expressing their highest approbation of his public conduct for upwards of twenty years, during which period he discharged the duties of first judge in the county.

behalf of Mr. Nicolson of Carnock, I am to request that you will be pleased to elect his father, Sir Michael Stewart, and himself, burgesses of Paisley. This has no reference to any recent matter,¹ but arises from a wish to patronise the town in the immediate neighbourhood of the residence of their ancestors. I will pay the fees." The Council elected them both honorary freemen of the burgh, and authorised the Provost to transmit to them admission tickets certified in the usual way. On 30th April, 1819, the Council, in compliance with sentiments expressed by some very respectable burgesses, ordained that in future "dissenters entering as freemen and burgesses shall not be required to take and subscribe any burgess oath whatever." At a meeting of the elders and deacons of the two congregations of the Secession of Paisley, held on 6th May, it was agreed to forward a letter to the Council, expressing their "cordial thanks for the liberal and reasonable measure they have thus adopted."

From an early period Paisley had been comparatively well supplied with stage coaches, which gave numerous opportunities for travelling to different parts of the country. The first notice we have been able to discover of a stage coach connected with this town, was on 13th July, 1780, when Mrs. Graham, the tenant of the Saracen's Head Inn, intimated that the "Paisley and Glasgow Fly, made to hold six persons with ease, will set out from the Saracen's Head Inn, Paisley, on Friday first, a quarter before nine o'clock in the morning, and continue to run to Glasgow at the same hour every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, and will set out on her return every evening at a quarter after six o'clock from Mr. Durie's, at the sign of the Swan, nearly opposite to Hutchison's Hospital, Trongate. On Thursdays and Saturdays she will set out from Paisley a quarter of an hour before eight o'clock in the morning and a quarter before five in the evening, and from Glasgow a quarter before ten in the morning and a quarter before seven in the evening; the proprietors to be answerable for no bundles, parcels, &c., above the sum of £5, and not for those under unless they are marked in the way-bill and paid for accordingly. And as the price of the ticket will be for some time only one shilling sterling, they humbly hope for the encouragement of the public." On 27th June, 1782, Alexander Ewing, vintner, at the Saracen's Head Inn, Greenock, advertised "to run a diligence from Greenock to Mrs. Graham's, Paisley, every lawful day, and to commence on first July, at eight o'clock, and to leave at the same hour. The fare to be four shillings." On 4th December, 1783, Thomas Durie, Swan Inn, Glasgow, and Joseph Ritter, Abercorn Arms, Paisley, advertised a coach, carrying six passengers, to leave Glasgow for Paisley at nine o'clock morning, and a coach from Paisley at ten o'clock for Glasgow,

¹ This alludes to the successful action by Sir Michael in preventing the Council from selling a life-rent superiority.

and returns to Paisley at five o'clock, and from Paisley at six o'clock, every lawful day. On 3rd March, 1785, John Gibb, vintner, Paisley, advertised that he would continue to run every day his coach from Paisley to Glasgow six times a day (Wednesdays excepted). The fare must have continued at 1s. down to 29th September, for the proprietors then intimate that, "on account of the additional taxes and heavy turnpikes, the fare is raised to 1s. 2d." In November, 1788, further changes were made in the hours for departing and arriving. The fare was 1s. 6d.; and the journey between the two towns was performed in an hour and quarter. On 1st June, 1791, a coach was advertised to run from Glasgow to Ayr, by Paisley, Beith, and Irvine, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, starting from Glasgow and Ayr at nine o'clock morning. The fare is not stated. In 1812 the coach fare between Paisley and Glasgow was raised to 2s. inside and 1s. outside. In 1812 five coaches were run from Glasgow to Greenock daily, by Paisley (*Gilroy's Paisley Directory*, 1812). The fare inside was 8s., and outside 6s. In September, 1818, a coach ran between Paisley and Kilmarnock three times a week, *via* Barrhead, Neilston, Dunlop, Stewarton, and Kilmaurs. The fare between Paisley and Kilmarnock was 7s. 6d. inside and 5s. outside. On 22nd June, 1820, a coach commenced to run between Paisley and Kilmarnock, by Beith, three times each week,—the fare inside being 8s., and outside 5s. 6d. In 1820 the number of coaches between Paisley and Glasgow had increased to nine each day; and on Monday morning a coach started at four o'clock for the accommodation of the fleshers attending the Glasgow market. The intercourse between the two towns still continued rapidly to increase; and four years afterwards, the arrivals and departures of conveyances rose to the astonishing number of thirty-two every day, with additional coaches on Wednesdays. Competition brought the fares down to 1s. 6d. inside, and for the basket and outside 1s.¹

While the County Buildings were being erected, the Council had under their consideration the formation of a street from these buildings to the Cross. The subject came before them on 6th January, 1816, when they were of opinion that the plan No. 1, prepared by orders of the Commissioners under the Prison Act, "was much the most suitable, and likely to prove the most advantageous, inasmuch as it will give opportunity for opening the long-projected and anxiously-wished street through Dyers' Wynd to the Sneddon, and afford direct communication from the Cross to the intended public buildings." To further the making of this new street, the Council

¹ At this time the Sheriff, Provost, and Magistrates of Paisley, and the Justices of the County, were, in consequence of numerous complaints, under the necessity of issuing a proclamation, which states that "the drivers of stage coaches are carrying greater numbers of passengers, and a greater quantity of luggage, than the statute prescribes; and that furious or incautious driving of these coaches, to the danger and alarm of the lieges, is almost daily complained of."

agreed to give the property on the north side of Dyers' Wynd to the Commissioners, who undertook in return for the same to put the community in possession of such portion of the ground delineated on this plan as belongs to Messrs. Muir, Reid, & Speir.

When the charter of the East India Company was about to expire, a numerous and influential meeting of merchants, manufacturers, and other inhabitants of the town was held on 31st March, 1812. Mr. Herbert Buchanan presided. Spirited resolutions were carried calling upon the Legislature to adopt efficient measures for the relief of manufactures and commerce, then so much depressed in the district ; and at the termination of their charter to discontinue the monopoly held by the East India Company, as such a course would be highly advantageous to the commercial interests of the country. The meeting agreed that the Earl of Glasgow should present the petition to the House of Lords, and Mr. Speirs, M.P., to the House of Commons, and "to support it with their utmost exertions." On the 28th January in the following year, the Council also transmitted a petition to both Houses of Parliament, praying that British subjects may enjoy the privilege of trading to every country in the East free from any control on the part of the East India Company.

In 1812 and the year following, a series of "Paisley Assemblies" was advertised in the Glasgow newspapers, to be held in the Renfrewshire Tontine, Paisley. Tickets, as was always stated, "were to be drawn at nine o'clock." At the assembly held on 16th April, 1813, it was advertised "there will be a dancing assembly in the Renfrewshire Tontine for the benefit of the Paisley Benevolent Society." In 1816 and 1817 there were also what were called "Winter Assemblies." Mr. John Birkmyre, a young student of divinity, under the *nom de plume* of "Matthew Bramble," published in the latter year two short pamphlets against them, with the title — "Hints to the Young Ladies of Paisley on the Winter Assemblies." As regards payment of the ladies' tickets of admission, he stated — "Many may recollect that during the course of last winter several balls were given on a new plan for the accommodation of our young ladies and gentlemen. It would perhaps be more correct to say for the accommodation of the gentlemen ; for the ladies, contrary to the old and long-established custom, purchased their own tickets, and went to the ball-room to procure gallants, which they would find no very difficult task providing they were tolerably handsome and the gentlemen pretty numerous. Thus passed our first season." But he admitted that in the second season the gentlemen did "not permit the young ladies to be anything out of pocket, but generously provided them in the increased price of their own tickets." He stated also "that it is a notorious fact that ladies have been allowed to depart unattended from the rooms, at the hour of two in the morning, to grope their way homewards amidst the welcome shades

of darkness, which concealed their blushes." William Motherwell, the poet, in a pamphlet, under the name of "Ephraim Mucklewrath," and in another, under the name of "Peter Plain," replied to Mr. Birkmyre in a very able manner, showing that his allegations were founded in error.

In February, 1814, Thomas Cochrane, tenth Earl of Dundonald, was accused of being concerned in the propagation for interested purposes of a false report of Napoleon's abdication, which caused a great rise in the Funds. He was tried on this charge, and found guilty of fraud; and was sentenced on the 5th of July to stand in the pillory, pay a fine of £1000, and undergo one year's imprisonment. So convinced were the public that he was innocent, and the victim of party feelings, that he was immediately re-elected to Parliament for Westminster. Having made a daring escape from prison and appeared in his place in Parliament, he was re-committed, but his fine was paid by public subscription. In Paisley, where the popular sympathy was strongly in favour of Lord Cochrane, a number of the inhabitants in meeting assembled appointed a committee to collect subscriptions in aid of this fund. At a meeting of that committee held on the 30th November, 1816, they fully concurred in the resolutions thus formed by the meeting for paying, in the first place, Lord Dundonald's fine of £100 — the residue to be applied in the discharge of his former fine of £1000, and the expenses to which he had been subjected in consequence of the various prosecutions that had been raised against him; and they resolved "that a subscription be immediately commenced in Paisley to assist in carrying this highly laudable object into effect." We cannot state, however, what amount of money was obtained.¹

Prior to 1814 no register of marriages was kept in the town. On 7th October in that year the Council, considering the inconvenience and frequent loss and disappointment which resulted from the want of correct registers of marriage, which were so much regarded as evidence in courts of law for establishing propinquity and patrimonial succession, agreed that such should thereafter be kept in the different parishes in the town by the session-clerks.

At a public meeting held in June, 1815, called by the Magistrates, the Paisley Provident Bank was established. At that meeting,

¹ One of the descendants of the Dundonald or Cochrane family, who during a part of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries owned the Lordship of Paisley, and resided at the Place of Paisley, has become through marriage allied to the family of the Earl of Glasgow. On 2nd December, 1880, the Hon. T. H. A. E. Cochrane, second son of Lord Dundonald, the eleventh Earl, and a lieutenant in the Scots Guards, was married to Lady Gertrude Boyle, daughter of the Earl of Glasgow, at St. Mark's, North Audley Street, London. On that day there were great rejoicings at Hawkhead, Largs, and Millport; and at night there was a bonfire on Dykebar hill.

trustees, committee of management, and cashier, were appointed; and in November of that year the bank was opened for business. The least sum received was one shilling, and no interest was paid on any sum less than £1 5s. The deposits were lodged in the Paisley and Union Banks, then the only banks in the town, which at first generously allowed five per cent., and thereby gave the power to the directors to pay four per cent. to the depositors, leaving the one per cent. and interest on small sums to be applied to the management. After a time the interest to the depositors fluctuated according to the state of the money market, but they always received as much as mercantile men got in other banks. The amount of money deposited never amounted to a large sum. In 1816, £1192; in 1818, £1312; in 1820, £1677; in 1822, £3193; in 1824, £2861. This bank was given up when the National Security Savings Bank was established in 1838.

The first proposal to establish a National Security Savings Bank in Paisley, was made at a meeting held on 10th December, 1838, in the Saracen's Head Inn,—Sheriff Campbell in the chair,—when it was agreed that a requisition should be prepared and presented to the Provost, requesting him to call a public meeting of all who were favourable to the establishment of such an important scheme. This was accordingly done; and the public meeting was held in the Court Hall on the 16th of that month, when it was agreed that such a bank should be established. Three days afterwards, a meeting was held in the Saracen's Head Inn, when trustees and managers were elected. At another meeting, Mr. Archibald Hodge, accountant, was appointed the first cashier and actuary; and the bank office, which was at No. 3 Christie's Terrace, was opened for receiving deposits of money on the 14th May, 1838. The rate of interest allowed to depositors was £3 6s. 8d. The periods fixed for receiving deposits were:—Mondays, from nine to twelve o'clock; Thursdays, from twelve to three o'clock; Saturdays, from one to three o'clock, and from six to nine evening. Only one period weekly was given for paying deposits, and that was on Wednesdays from twelve to three o'clock. And the bank was “open on Fridays from one to three o'clock, for the purpose of giving information to those from the neighbourhood, and for receiving money from the receivers in the country, in addition to the other days for receiving deposits.” In 1855 Mr. Hodge resigned, having been appointed agent in Paisley for the City of Glasgow Bank. Mr. John M'Gown, who was chosen his successor, has filled the situation down to the present time. In an evil hour the committee of management lent the funds of the Savings Bank to the Western Bank, in order to obtain a higher rate of interest; and as that bank suspended payments in 1857, the credit of the Savings Bank was considerably injured in the sight of the depositors, but they sustained no loss. The money of the Savings Bank was again invested with the government commissioners for the reduction of the national debt; and after a time confidence was thoroughly restored.

The following figures give us a view of the wonderful progress of this invaluable institution, which was established to encourage habits of economy and foresight among the industrious classes. At the year ending 1838 the amount deposited was £15,774 (silver and coppers not included); in 1840, £27,204; in 1845, £46,787; in 1850, £42,646; in 1855, £58,999; in 1860, £45,101; in 1865, £64,170; in 1870, £96,846; in 1875, £148,939; in 1880, £185,478; in 1883, £219,954.

Number of accounts open year ending 1882,	...	7994
New accounts during year 1883,	...	1883
Accounts closed during 1883,	...	1511
Increase,...	...	<u>372</u>

Accounts open year ending 20th November, 1883, 8366

The Penny Banks depositing in this institution number twenty-four; and their funds have increased from £2327 15s. 11d. to £2408 4s. 3d.

As we have seen in a former period, the Council failed to turn the Ferguslie and Carriagehill superiorities to the pecuniary advantage of the burgh. The second attempt of the same kind, made in 1815, was equally unsuccessful. Not profiting by experience, but being anxious to improve the burgh funds by converting the superiority of the burgh, which entitled them to vote for a member to represent the shire in Parliament, to a monetary use, the Council agreed to sell, for £300, to Mr. Alexander of Southbar, for one of his political friends, a life-rent disposition of as much of the superiority as constituted a freehold qualification. The expenses attending the sale, estimated to cost £125, were to be paid by the purchaser (*Council Records*, 17th November, 1815). Mr. Alexander's friend was not a political supporter of Sir M. S. Stewart, who, along with others in July in the following year, applied to the Court of Session for a bill of suspension and interdict of this sale. The Council lodged answers to these; and the Lord Ordinary having ordered parties to prepare and print memorials, the Council on 23rd September following, "resolved that the action should be resisted." In the meantime a number of the feuars requested the Provost and Magistrates to call a public meeting to consider this sale. As they declined to do so, the requisitionists and others, on 19th July, 1816, held a public meeting, at which they passed strong resolutions, holding that it was an illegal act on the part of the Council to dispose of the superiority. At another meeting of the feuars, held on the 29th of the same month, they again denounced this sale, and objected to the entries of vassals with the burgh being doubled. Then followed a keenly contested law suit (with, no doubt, the usual replies and answers); and the decision of the court was not given till January, 1822, when it was intimated to the Council "that the court had pronounced unfavourably to the community, and

found them liable in expenses." On 5th February following, "they agreed to acquiesce in the decision."

The illicit distilling of whisky was carried on to a great extent at this time in several places in the adjoining districts, and the officers of excise in Paisley had a busy and even dangerous time in detecting and securing the smugglers. In January, 1816, in consequence of information received that illicit distillation abounded in the western part of the parish of Neilston and eastern part of the parish of Beith, the Supervisor of Excise, with a body of officers, went from Paisley to the different suspected places, and after great exertions succeeded in destroying four illicit distilleries. One of them was on a large scale, the still being of copper, and capable of holding 60 gallons. From the resistance made by the smugglers, the excise officers were unable to secure any of them. But nine of them were afterwards seized, and on 10th April convicted before a bench of Justices in Paisley, and amerced in fines amounting in all to £210. The Town Council, on 27th February, on account of the unprecedented extent of illicit distillation of whisky, agreed to petition the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to adopt measures to suppress the same, in order to secure obedience to the law and protect the fair trader. In May, 1822, there were three large stills discovered on the farm of Nethercraigs, two of which were at work. There were three men and a boy at the place, but they all escaped. In July following, a thirty-gallon still was seized in Waulkmill Glen, near Barrhead. On 4th February, 1824, the excise officers at Paisley, headed by Mr. Milligan, supervisor, discovered in Mearns Moor an illicit distillery at work, with a still of 100 gallons. Two of the smugglers were seized and lodged in Paisley jail. On the 11th of that month, the same party of officers detected at work at the Bridge of Elliston an illicit distillery, which had been carried on for a considerable time. Three of the smugglers were seized, and afterwards fined in £30; and being unable to pay this sum, they were committed to jail. Three days after that, another illicit distillery was seized in full operation at Hagg Mill, near Johnstone. An old man only was found at this distillery. Notwithstanding all these detections and the noise made regarding them, illicit distilling continued. On 9th June, Mr. Milligan and the excise officers in Paisley found in Eaglesham Moor an illicit still in operation. And four days thereafter, the same officers returned to these moors and found two distilleries of considerable magnitude, the contents of one of them being 133 gallons, along with two mash tuns each capable of holding 250 gallons. This work appeared to have been carried on for a long time. In other parts of the country illicit distillation was practised with much activity and daring. To give one specimen. The Excise in January, 1822, seized in various houses in Gorbals, Glasgow, six illicit stills, varying in size from 25 to 60 gallons.

In 1816, stagnation of trade again prevailed to a great extent,

and many operatives were thrown out of employment. On 5th October in that year, a public meeting was held in the Relief Church, Canal Street, "for the purpose of considering the distresses of the country, their causes and remedies, and the propriety of petitioning His Royal Highness the Prince-Regent thereon." The meeting was addressed at great length by Mr. J. Wilkinson, Mr. Hastie (who was chairman), Mr. M'Naught, and Mr. J. Beith, in strong language. A series of resolutions was unanimously agreed to with much enthusiasm; and as they breathe in an unmistakable manner the political and social feelings and opinions of the working-classes at this time and for several years afterwards, we give them at length:—

1st. "That the present distress of the agricultural, the commercial, and manufacturing interests of the country are to be ascribed, not to a transition from war to peace, but to excessive taxation, occasioned by an enormous debt, useless offices, exorbitant salaries for nominal services, and a standing army, all of which are clearly deducible from that unequal and insulting representation of the people in Parliament which not only deprives them of those inestimable benefits which are natural fruits of a fair representation, but condemns them to suffer all the evils which inseparably attend the mischievous legislation of a House of Commons not representing the nation; and these evils having been accumulating for many years, are now become too harrassing and degrading to be longer endured, without being incessantly protested against and as unceasingly resisted by all means warranted by the Constitution.

2nd. "That if any proof were wanting of the impolitic, partial, and unjust system of legislation produced by the present mockery of representation, the additional Corn Bill lately passed affords ample evidence. It was passed, despite of the unanimous disapprobation of the people, ostensibly to support the farmer; but whether we consider its objects to have been to support the landed interest in order to have their support in the property tax, or to buoy up the price of all articles of taxation and consumption in order to be able to pay the fundholder with a high nominal currency—to produce a steady price in the article of corn—it appears to have been successful only in depressing the industrious manufacturer and mechanic, in first raising the price of the staple article of consumption at home, and next in preventing our own or foreign merchants from bringing us the surplus produce of other countries in return for those articles by the manufacture of which our artizans used to earn a comfortable livelihood.

3rd. "That from the present corrupt representation of the people in Parliament hath arisen that system of profusion, under the name of sinecures and rewards for public services, by which thousands wrung from the hard earnings of the industrious mechanic and labourer have been squandered upon men wholly unknown to the public; or, if known at all, remarkable for nothing so much as their

hostility to the inalienable rights of man and their execrable intrigues in support of that system which enables them to riot in luxury at the expense of the best part of the nation.

4th. "That to the same cause, viz., a partial and corrupt representation of the people in Parliament, is to be ascribed those ruinous wars which the country hath lately been engaged in, by the expense of which the resources of the nation have been so far anticipated that forty-five millions of pounds sterling are but barely adequate to pay the interest erroneously said to be the nation's, the great majority of the people having never given their sanction either personally or by their representatives to the mad and wicked measures which created it.

5th. "That the cause and character of the late wars, particularly that which commenced in 1793, is no small aggravation of the present distresses of the country, it being now well understood to have been a war against liberty and the principles which seated the present family upon the British throne, notwithstanding the many proclamations of the high allies to the contrary ; and if there were any doubts of this whilst its tremendous tempest was raging in many parts of Europe, they must now be wholly dispelled by the frightful consequences of its disastrous termination — the restoration of His Holiness the Pope to his abominable dominion over the bodies and souls of men, and the replacing of Louis XVIII. upon the throne of France, who has resumed his hereditary prejudices against the Protestants and the friends of liberty ; and Ferdinand upon the throne of Spain, to the abandonment of our patriotic allies the Cortes.

6th. "That a standing army of 150,000 men in time of profound peace, besides being wholly unknown to the Constitution of our country, and exposing our yet remaining liberties to the most imminent peril, contributes mightily to that excessive and grinding taxation which has filled the land with pauperism and crimes to an extent unparalleled in the history of our country, and which no lover of the true greatness, happiness, and lasting freedom of the nation can contemplate but with horror, because of the depth and extent of the ravages which they have already made among the working-classes of society, together with the appalling consequences which they portend, if not speedily checked by an immediate abandonment of that profusion in the national expenditure which has so long and so deeply stamped the policy of the present system, and by the rights of the people being secured by annual parliaments freely chosen by the people.

7th. "That, considering the number, power, and the experience of those interested in the continuation of the abuses of which we complain, it is the imperious duty of every lover of his country to come forward constitutionally in the cause of justice and humanity, that the disasters which the present evils threaten to bring upon the country may be averted.

8th. "That a petition be presented to His Royal Highness the Prince-Regent, beseeching him to take into his most serious consideration the sufferings of the industrious and patient people, and praying that he would be pleased forthwith to cause the Parliament to be assembled, and to recommend to them the absolute necessity of immediately undoing our heavy burdens by reducing the army, abolishing all sinecures, pensions, grants, and emoluments not merited by public services; to introduce into every department of the public expenditure the most rigid economy; and to listen to the repeated prayers of the people for being restored to their undoubted right of choosing annually their own representatives."

Meetings of a similar kind were held in almost every town and village in the West of Scotland.

Early in January, 1817, a public fund was raised for the relief of the unemployed; and the Council, on the 7th of that month, "considering the present necessitous condition of the labouring and industrious classes of the community, voted £50 towards the public fund now raising for their relief." A public meeting of the inhabitants was requested to be held on the 20th of this month, in a field belonging to Mr. James M'Farlane, to the east of the Baker's Mill, to take "into consideration the propriety of petitioning the Legislature upon the defective state of the representation." For some reason which is not explained, the meeting was held in the East Relief Church. Mr. Hastie was in the chair. It passed no fewer than twenty-two resolutions, and the burden of all of them was that "the continued and increasing calamities of the times arose from the want of a proper representation of the people in Parliament, and that they should be put in possession of their undoubted rights — universal suffrage and annual Parliaments." Another meeting was held on Saturday, 17th July, 1819, on Meikleriggs Moor, at three o'clock, to consider the distress of the country, and "the propriety of petitioning the Prince-Regent for a redress of grievances, and remonstrating against a continuance of those measures which have brought the country to the present state of unparalleled distress." The day being uncommonly fine, the meeting was numerous attended, there being at least 30,000 present (*History of Paisley*, by John Parkhill, p. 46). Mr. James Allison was called to the chair. The committee brought forward a list of resolutions, with the object of petitioning the Prince-Regent for a redress of grievances, but these were negatived, and an address to the nation, proposed by Mr. John Neil, was adopted instead, — the Houses of Parliament being thought unworthy to receive a petition which contended for universal suffrage, annual parliaments, and vote by ballot. Eight speeches were delivered; and at the close votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Cobbett, Mr. Wooler, and others, after which the meeting quietly dismissed, marching off at the sound of the bugle.

On the 22nd July, the Council having again under their consideration "the prevailing distress of many of the operatives in town, by reason of non-employment, representations of which had been made from various quarters, were unanimously of opinion that immediate relief, by some mode, was imperiously requisite." They agreed to follow the course adopted by the Abbey heritors, viz., to empower the kirk-sessions of the two parishes to advance £100 for relief of the distressed and unemployed operatives, after due enquiry into their circumstances, until some further source of aid should be devised. At the same time an extra assessment was authorised to be raised for the parochial poor. At a meeting of Council held on 28th August, the Provost reported that he had, since last meeting of Council, received a letter from Mr. Campbell of Blythswood, enclosing a list of the subscriptions for the relief of the numerous operatives in this manufacturing district presently out of employment, and requesting the community's subscription. That he had acknowledged receipt of that letter, and stated his humble apprehension that the community had been already sufficiently exemplary in their efforts to relieve the unemployed operatives. That at an early period of the prevailing distress they had cheerfully voted £100 to be at the disposal of the members of the general kirk-session of the town; and he had the great satisfaction of knowing that the greatest part of that sum had been usefully appropriated. That for several weeks past the community had retained, and for some time would continue to keep in pay, above forty of the operatives, in improving a portion of their moss lands, at the rate of one shilling per day each, an allowance which, considering the inefficiency of those employed, and the limited hours of labour, would very far exceed the remuneration if executed by persons accustomed to such work. When, therefore, it was considered that for labour of a similar or any other kind that might be furnished any of the very respectable subscribers, the one half of the wages advanced was to be defrayed from the fund, while the community of Paisley neither solicited nor expected indemnification of any kind, he was hopeful it would appear that the community had come forward as liberally as, under existing circumstances, could be expected. With these explanations the matter, the Provost reported, had been satisfactorily arranged with Mr. Campbell.

At a county meeting, held on 20th August, 1819, called by requisition, it was resolved to aid in relieving the distress at present experienced by a considerable proportion of the operative manufacturers in the county. A large sum was raised at the meeting,—the Earl of Glasgow heading the list with a subscription of £100.

In the first week of September, a placard with a mourning border was circulated, calling a meeting of the inhabitants of Paisley and vicinity, to be held on Meikleriggs moor, to consider the late proceedings at Manchester. In consequence of the inclemency of the weather, the holding of the meeting was adjourned till the 11th

September. Several large bodies of people, however, came from Kilmarnock, Kilbarchan, Johnstone, Dalry, &c., to attend the meeting. Several of these parties carried flags, with the usual devices on them; but by the advice of some persons who met them outside of the town, they were furled and taken down. The committee adjourned to the Unitarian Chapel, High Street. Mr. John Wilson gave some information to the meeting regarding the starting of a radical reform newspaper, and reported that Mr. Lang had offered to print and assist in editing it. Mr. Lang stated that he had written to London about it to see what could be done in that quarter, as it was absolutely necessary to have a newspaper to advocate the cause of universal suffrage.

According to advertisement, the public meeting which had been adjourned on account of the unfavourable weather, was held on Saturday, the 11th September, on Meikleriggs moor. As the day was particularly fine, the people began to assemble at an early hour. The Sheriff and Magistrates of Paisley had previously published a proclamation prohibiting the appearance of any flags; but a band of about two or three hundred persons from Glasgow marched along the Cross and High Street to the place of meeting with their flags flying. Eight flags were displayed before the hustings at the place of meeting, with such mottos as — "Justice, liberty," "Magna charta," "Liberty, civil and religious," "Annual parliaments," "Abhor the inhuman butcheries at Manchester," &c., &c. A drapery of black cloth, from four to five feet deep, was hung in front of the hustings; and all the speakers of the Paisley committee, and several others, were dressed in mourning. All the flags were edged with black. The band from Neilston came into the field playing "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled," and other national airs. Mr. Alexander Taylor¹ was chosen preses, and began the business of the meeting by enjoining attention and good order. He further stated that the reformers had no wish for disturbance and revolution, as was falsely asserted by their enemies; they merely wished an end put to all unnecessary places, pensions, and sinecures, and a proper share in the legislature of their country. He adverted to the inhuman butchery at Manchester; indeed he and all the speakers were particularly vehement and declamatory upon this

¹ He was a schoolmaster; and although not connected with the unions, soon found it necessary to leave this country for America. He was a man of an excellent character, and humane and gentle in his disposition, and had no idea that his being chairman of a meeting would make him liable to pains and penalties. In Montreal he opened a public stall, and sold off all the books which he took out with him. He afterwards went to Quebec, and obtained a situation in a government school. On returning home he stayed a night at the town of Prince William Henry, where he fell in with a soldier whose regiment was quartered at Montreal, and with him spent the evening. Next morning he was amissing; and after some searching, his body was found on the banks of the river. It was found he had been murdered and also robbed, as his watch and money were gone. The soldier was tried for robbery and murder, and convicted of the former, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. The evidence of murder was defective (*Life of Arthur Sneddon*, p. 75).

subject. "Will it be believed by posterity," said one of the speakers, "that a peaceable assembly of freeborn Englishmen were wantonly murdered in open day! Oh, I would rather see the bones of all my kindred whiten in the sun, and have my carcase thrown to the dogs, than that such an event should pass without a proper enquiry and punishment upon the guilty perpetrators. This is no time to pause between two opinions, when murder and massacre stalk in open day; when the inhuman magistrates have received the thanks of those who gorge their bloated carcasses with the blood of the artisan." Another speaker observed that "the British sword had been drawn on starving men and fainting women; has it desolated every country in the world, to be at last drawn upon ourselves? and will you allow your brethren to be murdered, without raising your voice against the infernal deed? No! sooner shall the lake wash Benlomond from its elevated site, than the sons of Caledonia shall be silent!" An orator stated that "such proceedings clearly demonstrated the necessity of a radical reform. If the Manchester magistrates had not calculated upon the applause and support of the borough faction, this tragedy never would have been acted." "None but fiends," it was stated, "could have wished the slaughter of men, women, and children; but a clergyman, whose duty it was to pour the balm of peace and consolation into the wounds, had sanctioned the deeds, and imbued his hands in human gore." Another speaker said, "the pious Sidmouth has sent his Reynolds, his Richmonds, and his Olivers, through the country to ensnare the people and excite them into acts of treason and rebellion. They have suspended the constitution, in the foolish hope of putting an end to public meetings; but the suspension has not answered the purpose of its miscreant authors. Sooner shall the waves which wash our western shore cease to roll, than we shall forego the right of assembling together." A number of resolutions deprecating the conduct of the Manchester magistrates were passed; votes of thanks were given to the most illustrious radicals; Mr. Peock was thanked, with great applause, for allowing the meeting to be held on Meikleriggs moor. A vote of censure was passed on the *Glasgow Chronicle* for abusing the great leaders of radical reform, and for upholding a degrading and fallacious plan of emigration. Another resolution carried was, "that as the contest between the borough-mongers and the people is of vital importance, hence it becomes indispensably necessary that the people use every means in their power to cut off the resources of these relentless tyrants, whereby they may be expelled from their usurped authority, and the people regain their legitimate rights. That on glancing at the vast revenue which the borough-mongers derive from tea, tobacco, and spirituous liquors, we conceive it to be our duty to abstain from the use of these articles ourselves, until a radical reform in the Commons' House of Parliament be obtained. And we hereby strongly recommend to all reformers to adopt, as far as possible, the same measures. That Major Cartwright, Mr. Hunt, Sir Francis

Burdett, Sir Charles Wolsely, Mr. Wooler, and other friends of reform in London, be respectfully invited to name a day for a general meeting of reformers throughout the whole kingdom, in order that the above resolution be adopted and carried into effect, whereby it will become a truly national measure." An address to Mr. Hunt was produced and read, and carried amidst great applause. After a speaker from the east side of Glasgow had spent some time in making severe strictures upon the duplicity and unfeeling conduct of the clergy, the business of the meeting was ended, on the preses requiring the people to depart with regularity and good order, and to go peaceably home. About the middle of the proceedings a cry of "the hussars" arose, when the people fled on all sides, and it was with some difficulty the committee could get them rallied and order restored. A collection was made when the people were retiring for the relief of the Manchester sufferers. It is supposed there were from fourteen thousand to eighteen thousand people present.

When the people were going home, those from the west with their flags, and the Neilston band of music, went down Storie Street in a compact body, and got quietly out of the town; but those from Glasgow were not so fortunate. The special constables lined both sides of High Street, with the civil authorities at their head. The first flag was seized at the Cross, a scuffle ensued, and the public mind being in a state of the greatest agitation, an immense crowd instantly collected. The special constables did their utmost to clear the streets, but the crowd continually increased. Stones and other missiles were thrown with violence; the windows of the Council Chamber were broken, and similar outrages were committed in other parts of the town. Shortly after ten o'clock the Riot Act was read; and the mob increasing, the cavalry were sent for at eleven o'clock, arriving from Glasgow about one o'clock. When they appeared the people gave them a hearty cheer and immediately dispersed. Next day as the Magistrates were going to church they were insulted by the populace, and one of the most active of the mob was seized by Bailie Bowie, who, with the rest of the Magistrates, conducted him to jail before proceeding to church. During the evening of Sunday, gentlemen were generally assailed with stones wherever they were found. About a dozen of the panes of glass in the Coffee-Room windows were broken, and gentlemen were prevented from retiring for about an hour; but the cavalry dispersed the mob without using their swords. The prisoners in the Police Office attempted to force their way out, but were prevented by the night watchmen, who were brought from their stations to guard them. The riot became serious at seven o'clock. The Riot Act was read three times before nine o'clock. Many windows were broken, along with all the lamps in Causeyside, High Street, Storie Street, Canal Street, George Street, and Broomlands. The iron rails at the Methodist Chapel, George Street, were taken out of the stone work, and used as weapons against the cavalry and special

constables, and the mob charged them most daringly up Storie Street. All was quiet by one in the morning.

The mob began again to assemble about eight o'clock on Monday morning, and continued to increase till one o'clock, when the Riot Act was read, and the cavalry and special constables endeavoured to clear the streets. Two companies of the 80th regiment arrived from Glasgow at three o'clock, piled their arms, and remained in readiness at the Cross. In the meantime the Provost and the Reform Committee had a conference at the Cross; and a meeting of the people was held afterwards at St. James Street, where about six or eight thousand assembled in a minute or two to hear the report. A member of the Reform Committee said, "We have had a long conversation with the Provost, and he has pledged his honour that every person who has sustained any damage in the late outrages, shall have ample justice done him; and should any person accuse any baton-man of wanton cruelty in the discharge of his duty, the affair shall have a complete and candid investigation; and if the baton-man be found guilty, he shall be brought to condign punishment though he were his own father. You must now disperse immediately, as the Provost is determined to use every effort to keep the peace." (Here the mob shouted, "Who first broke the peace?" "Restore the prisoners;" "Restore the prisoners without bail;" "Give up the flags," &c.) "Our message is delivered — one quarter of an hour only is allowed you to disperse — every man's fate is in his own hand." The great body of the people still continuing in the streets, the military were forced to interfere. The cavalry and special constables immediately scoured the streets, and dispersed the mob in all directions. At night every close and lane were searched with torches, and quietness was completely restored by midnight. At this time there were also radical mob riots in Glasgow.

In addition to the foregoing account of the rioting at this time, which we have gathered from various sources, we are also able to give the official report by the head of the police department in Paisley. It was as follows:—

"Narrative of the riots in Paisley, September, 1819, by James Brown, superintendent of police, Paisley. A meeting was advertised to be held on Meikleriggs Moor upon Saturday, the 4th September, for the purpose of taking into consideration the late proceedings at Manchester. This meeting was advertised by printed bills with black edges, which were posted not only in the town and suburbs of Paisley, the neighbouring towns and villages, but in Glasgow and in different parts of Ayrshire. On the 4th the scaffold or (as they call it) hustings were erected in the moor, but owing to the wetness of the day the meeting did not take place; though according to the statement of a man I sent to the place on purpose, from three hundred to four hundred people did arrive at the place of meeting. About the 2nd or 3rd instant, public report stated that flags were to be carried by people from different parts of the country, and that

they were to march to the place of meeting in military order. I have reason to believe Mr. Sheriff Campbell sent for some people connected with the meeting, and enquired if such was the fact. They said they had heard so, but they had used such means as they imagined would prevent any such useless parades. On the 4th a party did arrive, but the Paisley people made them lay the flags aside. The Kilbarchan people had a committee of reformers walking at the head of their procession; and it seems there were a number of committees from various places, for it became necessary to go to the Unitarian Meeting-house in High Street, to have room for a general meeting of the committees, at which meeting it was agreed to postpone the public meeting till the 11th instant. The flags carried into Paisley on the 4th were four in number.

“Saturday, 11th September. On the 9th instant, the Sheriff and Magistrates published the following proclamation:—

“‘Proclamation by the Sheriff of Renfrewshire, and by the Provost and Magistrates of Paisley.—Whereas a public meeting has been called by certain persons, and has been advertised to be held at Meikleriggs Moor, on Saturday first, the 11th current, for the purpose, as the advertisements bear, of “taking into consideration the late proceedings at Manchester;” and whereas credible information has been received that bands of persons from various quarters (including the City of Glasgow) intend to parade through the town and suburbs of Paisley, in going to and returning from the said meeting, with flags bearing inscriptions and devices of a political and inflammatory nature, a measure unauthorised and illegal in itself, as well as unnecessary for the *avowed* object of the said public meeting; therefore the Sheriff and Magistrates, determined as far as in them lies to prevent the peace and tranquillity of the well-disposed inhabitants of the said town and suburbs from being wantonly disturbed or threatened, and their feelings insulted by such illegal proceedings, do hereby caution all well-disposed persons against joining or allowing any of their families to join in such parades or processions; and certify to such as disregarding this proclamation, shall be found actors or art and part in such illegal proceedings, that they shall be made responsible for their conduct.—Paisley, 9th September, 1819.’

“This proclamation was posted in Paisley and the neighbourhood and in Glasgow, on the 9th and 10th September.

“The meeting at Meikleriggs Moor was to take place on the 11th instant, at two o’clock; and by order of the Magistracy the special constables assembled at one o’clock in the Court Hall. Between one and two o’clock a most motley group, perhaps to the number of one hundred, came from Glasgow with flags,—the one having an inscription ‘Justice and Liberty,’ the other ‘R. and L.’ This despicable rabble had more the appearance of the inmates of jail and bridewell than of people going at large. When they came in

sight of the Magistracy and special constables, they seemed to hesitate for a moment as if doubtful whether they should proceed. They hooked each other by the arm and advanced closely linked together, apparently more under the impulse of fear than of courage. When directly opposite the Magistracy and constables they gave a hurrah and waved their flags. The immense mob that surrounded them and their own barbarous appearance, struck the peaceable inhabitants with a kind of panic, and the shopkeepers instantly shut up their shops. After them passed great numbers of more respectable persons, though of shabby appearance, and it was obvious that the desperadoes with flags were sent before by way of experiment. The town remained tranquil till about seven o'clock in the evening. About seven o'clock the same flags were carried back, followed by an immense crowd of people in marching order, as well as alongside of them,—the High Street being literally crammed, and the desperadoes with such accompaniment had acquired a greater degree of confidence. Special constables had been placed along the pavement on both sides of the High Street as far as the Saracen's Head Inn door,¹ to prevent the multitude from stopping and crowding the streets and the square opposite the jail. When the procession reached the Saracen's Head Inn, the flag-bearers and those around them gave a hurrah and waved their flags in the most insulting manner almost in the face of Provost Jamieson. The flags were then seized; but such was the confusion which occurred by their resistance and the pressure of the crowd, that the bearers of the flags made their escape. After the flags were seized, a vast number of persons who had been at the meeting passed down the High Street and through the Cross in military order four abreast. The party from Neilston, who were on their march also to the Cross with their flags and a band of music, hearing the fate of their brethren of Glasgow, struck off from the main street down Storie Street. It is believed, however, that the different parties from the country did go away speedily, from the very great crowds in many of the streets and particularly at the Cross, for their appearance indicated many of them to be strangers.

“Between seven and eight o'clock, Mr. Burns of Gateside came to the Police Office and complained that he had been knocked down on the street and robbed of his gold watch, chain, and seals.”²

¹ At this time the entrance to this inn was from High Street.

² The Procurator-Fiscal in a handbill, of which the following is a copy, offered a reward for the discovery of those who committed this violent depredation:—“Robbery. Reward of 20 guineas. Whereas, during the riot in Paisley which succeeded the public meeting of Reformers held at Meikleriggs Moor, on Saturday last, a gentleman, while endeavouring to persuade the people to go quietly to their houses, was knocked down once and again, and robbed of his gold watch, chain, and seals; the watch is horizontal, caped and jewelled, with ruby cylinder, goes in the time of winding up, maker's name Thomas Johnston, Paisley; these are offering a reward of twenty guineas for such information given, within one month of this date, as shall lead to the discovery and conviction of the perpetrators or any of them, to be paid by the Procurator-Fiscal of the County. Paisley, 14th September, 1819.”

“From this time the streets assumed a riotous appearance, and so soon as it grew dark hostilities were commenced. Stones were thrown at the police officers, Council Chamber and Court Hall, and many of the windows broken. The Magistrates and special constables, previous to its being dark, went round the crowd and advised them to disperse, but in vain. After it was dark every constable that appeared was pelted with stones, and the experiment was tried to withdraw the constables altogether to see if the crowd would disperse of their own accord. Accordingly they were taken to the large room of the Saracen's Head Inn, but the same riotous conduct continued. Stones were thrown at the windows of the Court-House, and, as before-mentioned, when any of them took effect by breaking a window the crowd instantly gave a huzza. Between nine and ten o'clock it was suggested and agreed to by the Magistracy that the constables should try to clear the streets. This was attempted, but ineffectually, and many of the constables were hurt by stones from the crowd. Perhaps five out of every six of the constables who acted with any courage received blows from stones thrown from among the mob, and some of them were carried from the street in a state of insensibility. This scene of riot continued till half-past 10 o'clock, when it became necessary to read the Riot Act, and to send for cavalry from Glasgow. Mr Sheriff Campbell called silence, and the Riot Act was read by Provost Jamieson. The cavalry arrived before one o'clock, and the constables, without their assistance, cleared the streets by three o'clock in the morning.

“Sunday, 12th September.—At an early hour on Sunday morning, crowds collected at the Cross; but this was not thought much of, as anxiety to see the damage done to the windows on the preceding night was thought might be the cause, and it was thought when this curiosity was satisfied the crowd would disperse. This, however, was not the case, as such was the unusual and indecent conduct of the mob, that it was with difficulty the peaceably-disposed inhabitants, with their families, could make their way to church past the Cross. When the Magistrates left the Council Chamber to go to church, as they stepped out of the door, they met with a huzza from the crowd, and as they turned up the High Street they were hissed by well-dressed people, and when they turned up the High Church Brae they were again hissed. In the afternoon, they were again hissed on going out of the Chamber; and at the foot of High Church Brae, as they turned up, the crowd gave a huzza. A party, after divine service, followed Bailie Bowie to his own house, and hissed him all the way. Towards twilight, an alarming crowd had collected at the Cross, and no decent person passed without insult. Between 6 and 7 o'clock, Mr. Motherwell, Sheriff-Clerk, in passing along the Old Bridge, was violently assaulted, knocked down, and so severely treated that he was left for dead, and carried into a house nearly in a state of insensibility. One of the police officers (George Ritchie) was struck a severe blow with a stone, about the kidneys,

and was in consequence confined for several days. Mr. John Mann, collector of poor funds for the Abbey Parish, was advised, by a young man to go home, for if he remained only a few minutes he would repent it. It had been agreed on that no special constables should be called out, or cavalry make their appearance, this night till eight o'clock, in order to ascertain whether the mob would go away of their own accord, and every appearance of suspicion on the part of the Magistrates was avoided, lest it might be said they, by their proceedings, had provoked the crowd. It appears from what was said to Mr. Mann and the after procedure of the mob, that a systematic plan had been laid. Many stones were thrown, and at every crash of lamp or window breaking the crowd gave a shout. Between 7 and 8 o'clock, a whole volley of stones were thrown, at the Cross, at the Coffee-Room windows, and a grand huzza was made when a mob ran off from the Cross to Causeyside Street, and they instantly began and broke every lamp in their way; and proceeded along several streets, stopping now and then and breaking windows of such persons as they seem to have previously fixed upon, as they were heard to deliberate several times where they were to go next. Near 8 o'clock, information of their proceedings was given at the Police Office, and that they were coming down High Street. Bailies Valance and Bowie, the Superintendent of Police, and a few special constables who had assembled of their own accord, proceeded to meet them. They saw their approach at a distance by the extinguishing of the lights. The Magistracy, &c., were in time to save a number of lamps in High Street. At 8 o'clock, the cavalry were sent for, and the Riot Act was read by Mr. John Wylie, Procurator-Fiscal, by order and in the presence of Bailie Valance himself. At half-past 9 o'clock, the cavalry and special constables began to clear the streets. They were repeatedly assailed with stones by the mob in different parts of the town. This evening a great deal of damage was done to public lamps and windows of dwelling-houses. There is in the Police Office a list of thirty-seven dwelling-houses in which windows were broken this night and some nights after—the greater part were broken this night, and it was ascertained on Thursday that the number of lamps broken altogether was 258, and the greater part of them were also broken this evening. The railing of the Methodist Chapel in Storie Street was broken this evening, and many pieces of it were brought by the constables to the Police Office, some of which they picked up just after they had been thrown at them. It was from one to two o'clock before the streets were cleared.

"Monday, 13th September.—The crowds at an early hour were greater this day than on Sunday, and there was evidently exhibited a very unruly spirit. There was a wildness in the countenance of every person I met this day, and there were many strange faces among the crowd. Different people called early in the forenoon and complained of having been insulted on the streets. About twelve o'clock, Mr. James Jackson, shopkeeper

at the Cross, brought a stone in his hand which had been thrown at him while he was shutting his shop in consequence of some riotous conduct of the mob, whereby he considered his property in danger. Information also came to the office that Mr. William Wylie had been assaulted in the Newtown, driven down, his hat taken from him and kicked among the crowd, and it was with some difficulty he had reached the Tontine Inn. At a quarter before one o'clock, the Riot Act was read by Provost Jamieson, and infantry sent for from Glasgow. The cavalry were also brought to the Cross. From this time till five o'clock in the evening, the appearance of the town was alarming. The cavalry and special constables had cleared a space at the Cross, round which the Sheriff and Magistrates went and endeavoured to persuade the people to disperse. The shops were all shut and business wholly suspended. About nearly an hour after the Riot Act was read, the mob was disappointed in what appeared to be a deep laid scheme. About forty boys marched in military order, two and two, with stobs shouldered like muskets. The crowd gave way and allowed them to pass. When they reached near the Jail, they were met by Mr. Martin, of the Suburbs Police. They instantly threw down their stobs, as if by word of command, and retreated. Some of the stobs were picked up and thrown at Mr. Martin, which caused the crowd to retire and leave an open circle round Mr. Martin. He kept his place at very great hazard till nearly the whole were thrown at him and picked up by the police officers. No doubt these stobs were intended for a very different purpose. Two companies of the 80th Regiment arrived from Glasgow between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, and it was not deemed prudent to clear the streets till their arrival. About this time, information was given that a meeting was then in St. James Street, consisting of from 5,000 to 6,000 persons. The Magistrates, accompanied by a party of both special constables and ordinary constables and some infantry and cavalry, proceeded towards this assemblage of persons to apprehend some of them and disperse them. As they went down Moss Street, a great crowd fled before them, but suddenly turned round and threw a shower of stones at them and ran away. The cavalry were instantly ordered to charge, and in a short time the streets in that direction were cleared. During the whole evening and till an advanced hour on Tuesday morning, the cavalry and constables were engaged clearing the streets, and were often assailed with stones and brickbats, during which time many persons were apprehended.¹

¹ During this day, the following proclamation was issued :—"Proclamation. The Sheriff, and Provost and Magistrates, and Justices of the Peace, hereby require all parents and masters in the town and suburbs to keep their children and servants within doors as much as possible during the day, as in the present disturbed state of the town it may be necessary for the military to act against the mob. And the said Magistracy do earnestly recommend and strictly enjoin to all the inhabitants, parents and masters, to keep their whole household within

"Tuesday, 14th September.—This day passed over very quietly, though in the evening there were a number of windows broken in different places. Planks of wood were laid across the streets to bring down the cavalry, but there was no riotous assemblage so as to occasion reading of the Riot Act. The countenances of the people exhibited less bitterness than on the former days.¹

A proclamation in similar terms, which we have given above, was also issued on this day.

"Wednesday, 15th September.—This day was quite tranquil till seven o'clock in the evening, when suddenly a crowd appeared at the Cross. After the clock struck eight many of them went off; but a determined party remained; and, some time after, the lamps above the Police-Office door were broken by a stone from the crowd. At half-past eight o'clock the Riot Act was read by Provost Jamieson, and an hour thereafter the military began to clear the streets. Before this, however, a party of rioters had commenced in George Street by destroying a police watch-box. They were heard to deliberate whether they would fall upon Mr. Robertson's cotton mill, but they proceeded to Colonel Fulton's gate which they demolished. A number of windows were broken in the course of the evening. Stones were thrown plentifully at the constables and military, and wood, as in the former night, laid across the streets to trip the cavalry. This day the following proclamation was issued:—

"Proclamation by the Lieutenancy, Sheriff, and Justices of Peace of the County of Renfrew, and by the Provost and Magistrates of Paisley.—All well-disposed inhabitants of the town and suburbs of Paisley, are hereby warned to keep themselves and their whole household within doors after eight o'clock in the evening, so long as the present riotous disposition continues;

doors after six o'clock in the evening, as they and theirs will be amenable.—Council Chambers, Paisley, 13th September, 1819."

The following "instructions" were published by means of printed placards circulated in the town:—"The special constables, and other well-disposed persons of each ward, will remain assembled, under the direction of the Commissioners and deputy constables for the ward. They will prevent crowds from gathering on the streets and will require all passengers to go on directly to the place of their destination. If any breach of the peace is committed, they will endeavour to secure the offenders, and carry them to the Police Office, two or three witnesses to the offences accompanying the prisoners and remaining with them till their names and the nature of the charge is taken down in writing. During the present disturbed state of the town, the constables, on hearing the alarm bell, will instantly repair to the rendezvous to be appointed for each ward.—Paisley, 13th September, 1819."

¹ The following is a copy of a handbill that was circulated in the town by order of the Magistrates:—"Whereas, a false and infamous report, intended to excite riot and disturbance, has been invented and extensively circulated that a child, in a woman's arms, had been killed, or severely injured, by a blow from the baton of a special constable, a reward of ten pounds is hereby offered by the Magistrates of Paisley for the discovery of the villainous incendiary who is the author of this most unfounded and malicious report.—Council Chambers, Paisley, 14th September, 1819."

certifying to all that disregard this proclamation, that they will have themselves to blame for any injury they may sustain from the military force which the Magistracy are under the necessity of employing, in the most decisive manner, to prevent a repetition of the late riotous assemblies and mischievous attempts to pillage, plunder, and destroy. A reward of thirty guineas is also hereby offered for such information as will lead to the discovery and conviction of the miscreants who have been concerned in breaking street lamps and windows, or in destruction of other property.—Council Chamber, Paisley, 15th September, 1819.’

“The following is a copy of another proclamation that was issued this day :—

“‘The Sheriff of the County, and the Provost and Magistrates of Paisley, require all parents and masters in the town and suburbs to keep their children and servants within doors as much as possible during the day, while the present riotous disposition continues in Paisley. But it is expected and particularly enjoined, that all the well-disposed inhabitants will keep themselves and their whole household within doors after eight o’clock in the evening.—Council Chamber, Paisley, 15th September, 1819.’

“Thursday, 16th September.—This day passed over very quietly; and shortly after eight o’clock in the evening there was scarcely any person on the streets except the military and constables.

“Friday, 17th September.—This was a quiet day. A crowd collected at the Cross in the evening, who lingered longer than on the preceding day. The constables were dismissed at ten o’clock.

“(Signed) JAMES BROWN.”

Sheriff Campbell, in a declaration on the 13th September in that year regarding these riots, corroborated the statements made by Mr. Brown, superintendent of police.

Mr. Wm. Motherwell (the poet), Sheriff-Clerk Depute, made a declaration before Sheriff Dunlop on the 23rd of that month. He stated that “he was called upon to officiate as a special constable during the riots in Paisley on Saturday, 11th, Sunday, 12th, and Monday, 13th September; that he saw a party pass through the town on Saturday on their way to the meeting on Meikleriggs Moor; that they carried two flags, but he could not make out the inscriptions on them. That in the course of that day curiosity induced him and an acquaintance of his, Mr. Warrand Carlile, to take a look at the place of meeting. That he observed eight flags planted about the centre of the multitude which had assembled on the Meikleriggs Moor. That he can form no idea of the number that might be there, but which seemed to be always increasing, as a continuous stream of people covered the road from the suburbs of Maxwelton to the said place of meeting. That at the gate which enters into

the field where the meeting was, there were placed two pewter trenchers well filled with half-pence. That between five and six in the evening the meeting broke up, and great crowds proceeded down the High Street of Paisley towards the east. That the Sheriff and Magistrates of Paisley, along with the constables, were stationed at the Cross, to prevent the free passage of the streets being closed up by the crowds that were passing, or being interrupted by others that had previously passed, and were standing on the pavement and in the square at the Cross. That the party which in the forenoon had passed through the town now returned much augmented in numbers and with their flags displayed. That when they came opposite to that part of the line of special constables where the Magistrates were, they waved their flags and gave a loud cheer. That the Provost of Paisley then ordered the flags to be seized, which was accordingly done; but those who carried them got off by skulking among the crowd. That after this the crowd increased every minute, and stones were thrown at the special constables and at the windows of the Court House and Council Chamber and Police Office, many of which were broken, and several of the constables much hurt. That the Riot Act was read about half-past ten o'clock at night, but the crowd did not disperse. That an hour and quarter of an hour, or thereby, having elapsed after the reading of the Riot Act, he and others of the special constables were desired to proceed up the High Street and clear it, at all hazards, of the people who were still assembled. That in going up the street he observed many of the crowd skulking into closes. That at the head of Storie Street he observed some people standing together, whom he earnestly urged to go home as the Riot Act was read. That having got the length of William Fulton's, Esquire, a man darted from an adjoining close and gave him a severe blow on the face, which cut his nose and his mouth. That he ran after this person to apprehend him, but was immediately surrounded by others, who assailed him with stones, and cried to each other, 'kill the b——r, for he is by himself.' That he was obliged to fall back and join the rest of the constables, who were considerably further down the street. That on his way to the Cross he observed some folks still standing at the head of Storie Street; and on asking why they had not gone home, one returned for answer that they would go when they chose. That on this he took up the person whom he imagined gave this answer, and knows him to be the lad who calls himself David Monro. That this lad when opposite Sommerville the cooper's close ran up it to escape, but was afterwards seized and carried to the Police Office. That on Sunday, the 12th current, he observed the town to be unusually full of people, many of whom seemed to him to be strangers. That at seven in the evening, as he was about to enter his lodgings, he saw a considerable crowd collected at the Cross, and heard a shouting among them. That apprehensive of some disturbance he went to the Police Office to enquire what was the matter, and at that time George Ritchie,

sergeant of police, came in almost unable to walk, having, as he said, got at that very moment a brickbat thrown at him while returning from the Procurator-Fiscal's, where he had gone to inform him of the suspicious aspect of the crowd, and which brickbat had struck him on the spine. That having asked if the Sheriff was aware that so great a crowd had assembled, he was answered in the negative; and with the view of letting the Sheriff know that there was a great disposition to riot manifesting itself among the crowd, he left the Police Office and went down the town. That when in the middle of the square at the Cross, some fellows looked earnestly at him and said, 'mark the b——r.' That one of them attempted to trip him but failed. That these attempts were repeated, and several blows aimed at his head which he parried off. That the crowd was all this time hurraing and pushing on those nearest to him, who then struck him and retired into the heart of the crowd. That at the end of the Old Bridge, as he warded off a knock-down blow aimed at him by a fellow in a long blue coat and dark trousers, another came behind him and tripped up his heels. That he fell on his side; and before he could recover his feet, he was so much stunned by the blows and kicks he then received on the face and all parts of the body, that he became almost senseless. That on regaining his recollection he made a spring on the crowd, succeeded in breaking through those that were nearest him, and with much difficulty, owing to his bruises, gained the door of William Strang, vintner. That the foremost of the crowd had by the time he reached Mr. Strang's door fastened on his collar, and endeavoured to draw him back, all the while using most horrid imprecations. That in the struggle his waistcoat was torn away and his shirt rent to pieces. That when his feet were tripped as aforesaid, and he fell in consequence, a cry got up among the crowd of 'murder the b——r! finish the b——r when he is down!' That after he got inside of Mr. Strang's house several windows of it were broken. That he was so exhausted and hurt, that he lay in Mr. Strang's for three hours scarcely able to move a limb. That in the meantime he heard of riotings on the street; and that the windows of the Coffee-Room, the street lamps, the railings of the Methodist Chapel, had been broken by the mob. That on Monday, the 13th current, the town began early to be perturbed by numerous bands of idle persons going backwards and forwards, and a report that a party from Glasgow was on its way to assist the Paisley rioters. That about eleven o'clock the whole square opposite the Cross was almost entirely filled with people, and stones were occasionally thrown, one of which lighted at his feet as he was standing at the Police door; and in a short time some boys, to the number of forty or fifty, marched up the middle of the square with stobs or stakes shouldered. That these boys were hurraed and cheered by the crowd as they advanced; and when they reached the centre thereof, they threw down their stobs on the ground, many of which were taken up by the crowd; and when the Sheriff and some of the police officers

stepped forward to pick up the remainder, they were assailed by persons in the back part of the crowd throwing the stobs at them which they had taken up as aforesaid. That not long after this the Riot Act was read by Provost Jamieson; and while reading it the declarant observed some stones thrown at him and those who were beside him on that occasion. That placards intimating that the Riot Act had been read were affixed to boards and then carried along the edge of the crowd. That at six o'clock orders were issued that the streets should be cleared, and he accompanied a party of constables and cavalry up the High Street. That several stones were thrown from the Meal Market close, and he ran down with some others and discovered two lads running into a workshop adjacent to the garden wall at the end of the said close. That they shut the door of the shop after them; that the people who wrought in it gave admission to the constables. That he laid hold on one of the lads, and then gave him over to some of the other constables to take to the Police Office. That this lad's name the declarant does not know, nor could he recognise his features again. All which is truth.

“(Signed) W. MOTHERWELL.”

At the first meeting of the Council, held on 20th September, after these outrageous disturbances, the Provost briefly adverted to them, and stated that “they had excited alarm for several days, and had been productive of personal injury to many respectable individuals and of great destruction of property both of a public and private nature; and he rejoiced that the tumultuous proceedings were suppressed without bloodshed or violence on the part of those most actively engaged in the hazardous duty.” He also laid on the table extracts from minutes of a meeting of the Lieutenancy held on the 14th of that month, in which they were of opinion that the present military force should remain in the town for some time, that temporary barracks should be obtained, and that the expense of the same should be borne by the town and county. They also offered their thanks to the Sheriff and Magistrates for the active measures they took in suppressing the proceedings of the mob, and for their temperate conduct in preventing the effusion of blood. At another meeting of the Lieutenancy held four days afterwards, a representation, signed by the Sheriff and Provost Jamieson, urged “the propriety, and indeed the necessity, of having a permanent military force stationed in this large manufacturing town, which is surrounded by several very populous villages.” They also “hoped the Government would see the propriety of erecting in Paisley a barracks of a moderate scale.” The meeting unanimously concurred in this opinion, and requested the Vice-Lieutenant to transmit a representation to Lord Sidmouth, pointing out the necessity of a proper barracks capable of holding a hundred infantry. The present barracks were erected within three years afterwards in consequence of this application. The Council, at a meeting held on 20th

September, resolved that their most cordial thanks, and those of the community in general, are due to the Deputy-Lieutenants for their very friendly counsel and advice and personal co-operation in subduing the spirit of tumult and insurrection; also, to the Sheriffs, and the Procurator-Fiscals, and the special constables, for "their continued perseverance and humane exertions in the dispersion of the deluded and infuriated mob, notwithstanding the hazard to which they were frequently exposed and the personal injury which some of them sustained." Thanks were also voted to the police, Major Kingdon, of the 80th Regiment; Lieutenant Hodgson, of the 10th Hussars; Lieutenant Strangeways, of the 7th Hussars; and all the officers and privates of these regiments.

At a County meeting, held on the 15th October, regarding the distress of the operative manufacturers in the county, on the suggestion of Mr. Maxwell, M.P., they agreed to memorialise the Government to grant a loan of such magnitude as would enable them to expend £20,000 annually for four years, to complete the Ardrossan Canal; to request a donation of £30,000, to employ the overgrown population in cultivating waste lands or in improving the navigation of the river Clyde; to request a donation for the formation of new roads and railways; also, that a Bill be brought into Parliament to regulate the time of apprenticeship to the weaving trade, and also a sum to assist in emigration.

According to previous intimation, a large meeting of the Radical Reformers of Renfrewshire was held at Johnstone, on 1st November. By one o'clock, the people from Paisley and neighbouring towns had arrived to the number of about two-thirds of the meeting, with various bands of music and thirty-two flags. Upon a fine large blue flag was a full-length likeness of Major Cartwright with his Bill in his hand. The motto above his head was, "The venerable champion of our cause," and at his feet, "For a nation to be free, it is sufficient that it wills it;" reverse, "Let all who love liberty rally round the standard of Reform." Upon another was a painting of Wallace inscribed "Sir William Wallace" on the top, and at the foot, "Like our ancestors, we'll defend our liberty and laws." Upon another was a spade and a grape, with the motto, "The mucking of Geordie's byre." Others had harps, Scottish thistles, &c., and such mottoes as, "Abhor the inhuman butchers at Manchester;" "No Corn Laws;" "Cartwright's Bill;" "Take away the wicked from before the King, and his throne will be established in righteousness;" "Reason not with tyrants; man has only once to die;" "The borough-mongers' fall is fast approaching;" "Against tyranny and oppression our lives we'll spend our rights to gain;" "A day, an hour, of victorious liberty is worth a whole eternity of bondage;" "Liberty the object and reason the guide;" thistle, rose, and shamrock — motto, "May our union be firm," and on the other side, "Let tyrants and despots be banished from the face of the earth," with the figure of Justice;

thistle, "Our love of liberty shall ripen with our years;" "Thread Street Juvenile Reformers;" thistle, "We are the descendants of Wallace and Bruce,"—reverse, "Parents, recover your rights, and let them be handed down unimpaired to your children's children;" thistle, and on the reverse, "A day of liberty is worth a thousand of slavery;" "The rights of man are liberty, proper security, and resistance of oppression,"—reverse, "Shall Britons ever be ruled by knaves? No, Britons never shall be slaves;" "Who would not guard so dear a right, or die in such a glorious cause?"—reverse, "Remove the wicked from before the King, and his throne shall be established in righteousness;" a Paisley flag bore, "To be inactive is a crime, and to resist slavery is death," &c. Mr. Brodie, Kilbarchan, was chosen chairman, and a good looking young woman placed a splendid cap of Liberty on his head. Caps of Liberty and addresses were presented by the female Reformers of Johnstone, Millarston, Kilbarchan, and Elderslie. Some short speeches were delivered and resolutions of the usual kind passed, and an appeal was agreed on to the Prince Regent. A number of female Reformers remained upon the hustings during the proceedings. As there were five caps of Liberty on the hustings, every speaker put on one when he addressed the meeting. The chairman put on one at the close, and he requested the people to go quietly home. The meeting then dispersed. When the procession was returning through Elderslie, they halted beneath Wallace's tree, when the bands played "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled." Three cheers were given, and a number of pistols were fired. The whole body of people turned down Storie Street to avoid the Cross. A band of about a hundred boys closed the procession. They carried eight little flags with such mottoes as "The draw-boys' lament for the times;" "Bread and liberty;" "The juvenile Reformers;" "As the auld cock crows the young cock learns," with the figure of a cock; "Let tyrants tremble and look down upon the rising generation;" "Rights of man," &c. There had evidently been a good many pistols brought to the meeting. All the Radicals had sticks, and two battle-axes were carried in the procession and placed upon the hustings during the proceedings. All the shops from the west-end of the town to the head of Storie Street were shut. The cavalry were kept ready saddled all day—one-half at the Tontine Inn and the other at the Saracen's Head Inn. A picquet of twelve constables from each of the town's parishes were assembled in the Saracen's Head Inn, at half-past three o'clock, and a picquet of twenty constables from the Newtown met in the County Hall at the same hour. It was also arranged that if the alarm bell should be rung, the whole of the constabulary for the Town and Newtown should repair to the Cross. The people, however, dispersed in the most peaceful manner, and by six o'clock the streets were no more thronged than usual.

On 5th November, another county meeting was held regarding a communication from the Secretary of State as to raising a corps of yeomanry cavalry in the county. The Earl of Glasgow, who pre-

sided, first adverted to the existing distresses of the manufacturing classes, which he deeply lamented, and earnestly recommended to the liberal consideration of everyone. The meeting, on the motion of the noble chairman, afterwards agreed that the recommendation of His Majesty's Government respecting the formation of a corps of yeomanry cavalry in the county should have their zealous support, such a force being peculiarly suited to the present state of the country. A committee was appointed for carrying the resolution into effect. The meeting further, collectively and individually, pledged themselves to give their most zealous aid to the formation of every measure for the preservation of the public peace.

On the 9th November, the Council unanimously voted an address to the Prince-Regent expressive of their personal regard for His Royal Highness, of undiminished attachment to the constitution of the country, and of abhorrence of the seditious, revolutionary, and irreligious principles so actively disseminated by the enemies of order and good government.

At this period, several daring house-robberies were committed in different parts of the country by lawless persons, not Radicals, taking advantage of the times. One of these took place at the farm-house of Western (or High) Capilly, occupied by Mr. James Arneil, on the morning of the 13th November. The robbers broke open the door leading to the milk-house, entered the kitchen, and compelled the servant-women to remain in their beds. Mrs. Arneil and her daughter, on hearing the noise, concluded that robbers were breaking into the house, and escaped by a window. Miss Arneil, by the directions of her mother, went, in a state almost of nudity, to John Brown's, of the farm of East (or Low) Capilly, less than half-a-mile distant, to give the alarm. John Brown and his eldest son (Archibald Brown), the only men in the house, left immediately, each armed with a good staff.¹ On coming near to Mr. Arneil's house, they met the band of seven or eight robbers, a few of whom swore some awful oaths, and shouted, "Shoot them," and one of the robbers flourished a naked sword over the head of John Brown; but others cried "Let them pass," and the advice, fortunately, was attended to. On getting admittance to Mr. Arneil's house, John Brown and Archibald Brown learned what had taken place, for Miss Arneil had left so hurriedly that she could not give any definite information relating to the robbers. Mrs. Arneil did not leave the house so quickly as her daughter, but looked into the room by the window and saw the pillaging going on. She went to Mrs. Glen's, at the meal mill on the Killoch burn, less than half-a-mile distant, where there were only females. The alarm was given by them to those in the nearest farm, who, on hearing what was going on, came armed. The robbers had left, however, a good while earlier. The robbers in their plundering secured £10 in money, a gold watch, and a large quantity of wearing apparel. This daring robbery caused great excitement, particularly in Neilston Parish. For

¹ These were the father and eldest brother of the writer.

committing this robbery, Samuel Maxwell, Robert Muir, James Donelly, and Alexander Hamilton, were tried before the High Court of Justiciary at Edinburgh, on 12th December, 1820. The jury found the charges against Muir and Donelly not proven, but Maxwell and Hamilton were found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged. Dolin was one of the accomplices, but was set at liberty because he gave evidence against the other prisoners.

Another of the daring robberies committed at this time was at Crossmyloof, at four o'clock on Sunday morning, the 19th of the following month. A gang of nine men, armed with guns, swords, and other deadly weapons, broke into the house of the late Dr. Watt there, wherein were four young men, a maid-servant, Mrs. Watt, and a female friend. Some of the robbers stood watch at the young men's bedroom door, and other two of them, whose faces were discoloured with some material, stood at the beds with guns pointed at the trembling females, and with horrible imprecations threatened them with instant death if they made the least noise. A guard was also placed outside the gate; and the robbers being strong and secure, pillaged the house with great deliberation. A great variety of things were carried off, among which were three dozen silver spoons, one silver divider, one pair of silver candlesticks, two pairs of silver snuffers, three gold rings, two suits of clothes of the late Dr. Watt, a miniature picture of him set in gold, thirty gowns, five dozen shirts, a gun, and a great quantity of napery. The robbers were more than an hour in the house; and judging from the slang they used and the systematic manner in which they proceeded, they appeared to be practised depredators (*Glasgow Chronicle*, 21st December, 1819).

A county meeting, called by requisition, was held on 20th November, and was numerously attended,—the Earl of Glasgow presiding. Those present expressed “their firm determination to support by every means in their power the constitution of the United Kingdom against the seditious attempts which have been recently made in different parts of the country to disturb and endanger the public peace.” It was agreed that an address, in terms of the resolutions, should be sent to the Prince-Regent. During the last month of 1820 the country was in a very disturbed state. Near Airdrie the Radicals engaged in a course of military training; and the Glasgow magistrates, as stated in their proclamation, were “so deeply impressed by a sense of the danger to which the city was exposed from the attempts of the turbulent and disaffected, that they thought it their duty to call upon the citizens to take arms in defence of their lives and property.” They also “had reason to believe that disaffected and seditious persons intend to assemble in large bodies, with arms of different kinds and various offensive weapons, with the view, it must be held, of proceeding to acts of pillaging and plunder;” and gave notice that all such illegal meetings would be immediately resisted by military force.

Let us hear what John Parkhill, who was one of the leading

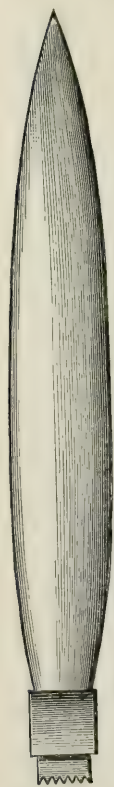
Radicals, states regarding the movements in Paisley at this time to overturn the British Government by force of arms :—

“I am now coming to the most eventful period of my life. Reform — Radical reform — was at this time, 1820, becoming the universal cry; and I, poor fellow, got into its meshes. In the street where I resided (Maxwellton) the inhabitants were all Radicals throughout. The association had been divided into sections or unions; and I happening to go to a meeting one night, before I knew where I was was made a member. Several speeches were made, quite sensible in the main, for things had not got into the rabid state to which they afterwards attained; and I thought that some sport might be had although reform did not prove to be the upshot of the affair, nor yet a ‘psalm in the Grassmarket.’ The unions still increased; and such was the temerity of the young aspirants after political fame, that the old leaders to a man had resigned and left the field to the young politicians already alluded to. Training after nightfall became quite common; and officers, if not appointed, were talked of. Pikes, guns, and pistols were getting in readiness; and over and above drill, large public meetings added to the general agitation; whilst the fatal meeting at Manchester, on the 18th of August, 1819, was a culminating plan in the insurrectionary movement. Our drilling got brisker than ever. One squad might be seen on the road to Gleniffer; another at Brediland; and indeed throughout the whole country they were gathering. After all I do not believe the third part of them had any idea that it would come to earnest. The great proportion of them were below thirty years of age; and their turning out was through excitement and what they termed fun — hence the drill afforded excellent sport, and the causing of alarm became an important feature in the matter. It must be acknowledged, however, that a vast number were in downright earnest, and spoke of blood and wounds like old campaigners. The authorities had but a glimmering knowledge both of the strength and tactics of the Radicals, who carried on their treasonable practices with all the skill of sly and imperturbable diplomatists. In preparation for the coming struggle yeomanry cavalry were raised, and a force of what were termed ‘dandy rifles’ organised. The Radical committee contrived to obtain a list of the names and residences of the members of these bodies, with the view of forcibly seizing their arms. I saw the danger of this proposed proceeding, and took means to frustrate the attempt; and on looking back on the strange state of things in which we had involved ourselves, I am proud of having saved many on both sides from perishing in an ignoble and disgraceful strife. The first day of April was the appointed day for the rising of the Radicals, and great activity was being displayed by the leaders. There was a safety-valve in the case which, had it been attended to, would have prevented an explosion in Scotland. The ambassadors who had been sent by us to Nottingham stated that, by an agreement with the English, we were not to move until we heard that 200,000 had

taken the field in England. Had we been as wise as we are generally presumed to be, we would have been perfectly safe ; but we were keen to try our unfleshed swords, and the sequel showed us to be a parcel of egregious fools. I had always depended upon this saving clause, and so was quietly led into the trap from which it was scarcely possible to get extricated. Our leaders were very industrious, and ever and anon were telling us of officers they had secured ; that surgeons and a medical staff were also in a state of forwardness ; and that even women were employed to prepare dressings for the hospitals. These last things were not very palatable to many of us. They indicated blood and gunshot wounds ; and from the number of military that were gathering around us, it appeared we were approaching a stern reality, and that a cataract of horrid carnage was in sight, provided we, the Radicals, stood firm. By this time, however, I was quite satisfied that not a man would appear in this mighty contest which we had been preparing for ; and the sequel will show I was right. In a certain weaver's shop in Maxwellton Street, a large assemblage took place every night, when everything in reference to the general rising was discussed. A good deal of what was serious was brought under review, although it must be owned that fun and humorous stories were the commodities in greatest repute. This House of Commons was called the 'smiddy ;' and although we had no legislative powers, we often assumed a right to do things that ought to have been done by the central government. As matters were drawing to a head, the subject of the appointment of officers — not generals, but the lower class, such as regimental officials — formed the marrow of our cogitations at one of these meetings. After a pretty long conversation, we found there would be plenty of officers obtained, but the great difficulty was to find properly qualified persons. That we had the stuff of which to make officers was apparent to all, but experience was necessary ; and then before experience could be attained, two or three generations of officers would have to die. This was rather a damper on our enthusiasm. Amongst our company we had a nice little fellow of the name of Daniel Bell, and our fear was that there would be too little of Daniel, for he was only five feet high. It appeared that he had been an officer's servant some short time, and had received several trinkets from his master, among which was a pair of epaulettes. On the possession of these he grounded his claim to be an officer. He had also been our drill sergeant, and an excellent one he was ; and we therefore appointed him our captain by a unanimous vote. He was, I believe, the first officer that was chosen, and I am constrained to think the only one. About a month before the grand proclamation was issued, a meeting of delegates from all the surrounding country met in a tavern in the Gallowgate of Glasgow ; and they had not been assembled above ten minutes, when the servant-maid came into the room quite in a panic crying out that the police were coming in. In the midst of the consternation produced by this, a strong force entered the room and took the whole of the company prisoners, seized all the

documents in their possession, and forthwith marched them off to prison. In the course of two hours a delegate arrived at Paisley with the alarming intelligence. Our committee was accordingly called together; and for safety we marched off to Gleniffer, and dived into the heart of the gorge in the hills in the same manner, and with the same instincts, that prompted the old Covenanters. Here we and the 'cushat' had all the solitude to ourselves. On comparing notes we found that not much danger was to be apprehended from the capture, as the documents the delegates had were only scraps to help their memory, and being somewhat hieroglyphical would not be very easily understood. After remaining in the glen for an hour we returned home, agreeing to send two delegates to Glasgow on the morrow. In the meantime pikes and pike shafts were still accumulating, but very few fire arms. I recollect of once going out to Elderslie to bring in two dozen of pike shafts. I went out at the request of, and in company with, one of our chiefs. The complement of shafts being delivered to us we started for home. As the military had been on the increase, and in Paisley and Glasgow

there might be a force of from twenty to thirty thousand, which afforded patrols throughout the whole country, we were under the fear of meeting with some of them, and thought the safest way to convey our seizable burden was to swim them in by the canal. We got to the end of our destination unmolested, but our great difficulty was to get any persons to take them into their houses. This did not speak much in favour of the coming war, as the people, when it came to the push, did not seem to be possessed of great alacrity in the matter. At the time Daniel Bell was made captain, I was also appointed to what is generally accounted a lucrative office, namely, that of commissary-general. I objected a good deal; but he who proposed me considered I was exactly made for it, the more so as I had a great antipathy to saltpetre. These appointments (and I am convinced we were the only officers who were ever appointed in the cause) led to no result whatever, further than furnishing a little sport for the time being. Daniel showed his epaulettes; but as for me, I had not half-a-loaf to show to my kind constituents. Our Provost was a Mr. Oliver Jamieson, naturally a good gentleman, but, like all the rest of the authorities, haunted by the idea that the Radicals were a most formidable body of men, and if not looked after would, some fine morning, overturn the State, when, in fact, we could not have made ourselves masters of the porter's lodge of Dumbarton Castle" (*Autobiography of Arthur Sneddon*, p. 74).

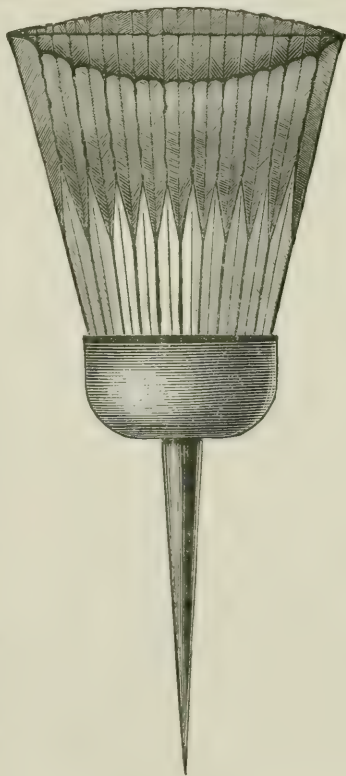


RADICAL PIKE.

The Radical pikes so frequently referred to were of the rudest description. The head, about thirteen inches long, was made of iron, representing a spear, and

the handle or shaft was generally a young tree about six feet long and about one-and-a-half inches thick, taken from the plantations around Paisley. We give a drawing of one of those weapons, taken from a pike in our possession. The manufacture of pikes was continued by night with astonishing rapidity and perseverance. Blacksmiths' and carpenters' shops were taken possession of by strangers, and those in outlying country places were in great requisition for preparing weapons in anticipation of the approaching combat. Files were carried off wherever they could be got, to hammer into pikes, which "were openly sold at from sevenpence to one shilling, according to the quality."¹ Some of these pikes, we are informed, were made with a hook of considerable size attached to the lower end of the spear, and were meant to be used for unhorsing troopers and other warlike deeds.

The other weapons called Radical clegs, a kind of dart, which the Radicals made, were somewhat of the nature of a shuttlecock. They consisted of a piece of lead, about two inches broad at the one end and tapering to about one inch at the other end, where a sharp steel spear of about three inches in length was fixed. At the broad end of the lead, feathers were fixed, so as to guide its flight. These could be thrown to a considerable distance with precision and effect. We here give a sketch of one of these clegs.



RADICAL CLEG.

At the end of January, 1820, three young men, named Daniel Jamieson, Matthew Adam, and Adam Macarthur, were tried before the Sheriff and a jury, for aiding the rioters in the previous September, in Paisley. Daniel Jamieson acknowledged his guilt, and was sentenced to four months' imprisonment, and to find proper security to keep the peace for two years. Matthew Adam denied the charges made against him, and after an investigation, which lasted eight hours, he was found guilty, and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, and also to find security to keep the peace

¹ Letter, published in pamphlet form, dated 20th April, 1820, to the Duke of Hamilton, detailing the late Rebellion in the West of Scotland, by a British Subject.

for an equal length of time. The charges against Adam Macarthur were departed from by the Procurator-Fiscal, and he was dismissed from the bar.

On 15th February, 1820, the Council voted "an address of condolence to King George IV., on account of the demise of our revered Sovereign, George III."

In the last week of March, a spirit of insubordination prevailed in the town; and discontent and disaffection, which had been smouldering for a considerable time, had the appearance of breaking out into open rebellion. A rumour was current for several evenings that a general rising was in contemplation, and that the disaffected were very active in making the necessary arrangements for that purpose. One of the reports was that large parties of Radicals met every night in the woods and moors adjacent to Paisley, to learn the pike exercise and other military tactics. The authorities were informed that an immense number of weapons were concealed in Legget's Wood; but when a number of constables and a small party of the military went there and made the necessary search, they were unsuccessful in finding anything. During these proceedings, the streets were very much crowded with people, some of whom treated the authorities and the constables accompanying them with the utmost disrespect. On one occasion the military were ordered to clear the streets, when some of the more obstinate persons were put into the Police Office.

When the first of April came round, the day frequently named for the threatened rising throughout the whole country, the following revolutionary and seditious address was extensively posted in many places in the town:—

"Friends and countrymen,—Roused from that torpid state in which we have been for so many years, we are at length compelled, from the extremity of our sufferings and the contempt heaped upon our petitions for redress, to assert our rights at the hazard of our lives, and proclaim to the world the real cause which (if not misrepresented by designing men, would have united all ranks) have induced us to take up arms for the redress of our common grievances. The numerous public meetings held throughout the country have demonstrated to you that the interests of all classes are the same—that the protection of the life and property of the rich man is the interest of the poor man, and in return it is the interest of the rich to protect the poor from the iron grasp of despotism; for when its victims are exhausted in the lower circles, there is no assurance but that its ravages will be continued in the upper; for once set in motion, it will continue till a succession of victims fall. Our principles are few, and founded on the basis of our constitution, which was purchased by the dearest blood of our forefathers, and which we swear to transmit to posterity unsullied, or perish in the attempt. Equality of rights (not of property) is the object for which we contend, and which we consider as the only

security for our liberty and lives. Let us show to the world that we are not the lawless, sanguinary rabble which our oppressors would persuade the higher circles we are, but a brave and generous people determined to be free. Liberty or death is our motto, and we have sworn to return triumphant or return no more! Soldiers! shall you, countrymen, bound by the same sacred obligations of an oath to defend our King and country from enemies, whether foreign or domestic, plunge bayonets into the bosoms of fathers and brothers and at once sacrifice, at the shrine of military despotism, to the unrelenting orders of a cruel faction, those feelings which you hold in common with the rest of mankind?

“Soldiers! turn your eyes towards Spain, and there behold the happy effect resulting from the union of soldiers and citizens! Look at that quarter, and there behold the yoke of hated tyranny broke by the unanimous wish of the people and soldiers, happily accomplished without bloodshed; and shall you, who taught those soldiers to fight the battles of liberty, refuse to fight those of your own country? Forbid it, heaven! Come forward, then, at once, and free your country and your King from the power of those who have kept them too long in thralldom!

“Friends and countrymen, the eventful period has now arrived when the services of all will be required for the forwarding an object so universally wished and so absolutely necessary. Come forward, then, and assist those who have begun in the completion of so arduous a task, and support the laudable efforts which we are about to make to replace to Britons those rights consecrated to them by *Magna Charta* and the Bill of Rights, and sweep from our shores that corruption which has degraded us below the dignity of men. Owing to the misrepresentations which have gone abroad with regard to it, we think it indispensably necessary to declare inviolable all public and private property; and we hereby call upon all Justices of the Peace, and all others, to suppress all pillage and plunder of every description, and to endeavour to secure those guilty of such offences that they may receive that punishment which such violation of justice demands. In the present state of affairs, and during the continuance of so momentous a struggle, we earnestly request of all to desist from their labour from and after this day, the first of April, and attend wholly to the recovery of their rights, and to consider it as the duty of every man not to recommence until he is in possession of those rights which distinguish the free man from the slave, viz., that of giving consent to the laws by which he is to be governed. We therefore recommend to the proprietors of public works and all others to stop the one and shut up the other until order is restored; as we will be accountable for no disaster that may take place, and which, after this public intimation, they can have no claim to. And we hereby give notice to all those found carrying arms against those who intend to regenerate this country and restore its inhabitants to their native dignity, we shall consider them as traitors to their country and enemies to their King,

and treat them as such. By order of the Committee for forming a Provisional Government.

“Glasgow, 1st April, 1820.

“Britons ! God, justice, and the wishes of all good men are with us ; join together and make it one cause, and the nations of the earth shall hail the day when the standard of Liberty shall be reared on its native soil.”

This treasonable address was printed by Robert F. Fulton and John Hutchison, in the employment of Mr. Duncan Mackenzie, printer, No. 20 Saltmarket, Glasgow, and they used the types and printing-press belonging to him without his knowledge. Fulton and Hutchison being warned by their friends that they had committed high treason, fled from this country to the United States of America. The Glasgow authorities offered a reward of £300 to any person “who will give such information as shall secure the apprehension of Fulton and Hutchison.” R. F. Fulton some time afterwards, in a letter to Mr. William Lang, printer, Glasgow, gave the following interesting information regarding the printing of this address, from which it will be seen that, although the preparation of this treasonable document was commenced in Glasgow, it was ultimately completed in Paisley :—

“The first time I ever heard anything of this address was on Tuesday, 28th March, when I was sent for through the means of a nephew of one of the Provisional Government, whose name was Craig. By him I was introduced to another member of the Provisional Government, whose name was Lees, with whom I made an appointment to meet at the corner of Ingram Street, opposite the Royal Bank ; but owing to the Secret Committee taking suspicion that they were watched by the local authorities, they removed from the house in which they met in the Saltmarket to Anderston, from thence to Govan, and last of all to Paisley, where they finally resolved on that copy of the address which was printed. By the removal to Paisley, Lees could not meet on Wednesday at the time and place appointed with me. He sent for me again on the Thursday, when he told me the copy was transcribing, and at the same time he gave me £1 3s. to purchase paper, and he requested to meet him (Lees) at the Cross at half-past eight o'clock p.m. After meeting him at the time appointed, we adjourned to the Globe Tavern, in the Saltmarket, where I received the copy, which he had concealed between his stockings and his legs. It was written on a form something like a law paper, and had much the appearance of having been written by a hand which had been much accustomed with writing. I can positively affirm that there was not a single copy thrown off by us before Saturday morning, a few minutes after twelve o'clock (at night), and we put on the press as soon as it was corrected. We had the best half of them ready before five o'clock, and about seven I carried all that was thrown off to the house of the above-mentioned Craig. We began again at nine o'clock on

Saturday night, and had them all off before twelve, and it (the address) was distributed immediately. Lees got the second package in the office at midnight. I saw him in about half an hour afterwards in the Globe Tavern, where he was sitting along with Craig and Mrs. Lees, when I received seventeen shillings in cash, and here the business closed with us concerning the address" (*Exposure of the Spy System*, by Peter M'Kenzie, p. 80).

The first of April was on Saturday, and this revolutionary placard, issued by the would-be provisional government, must have been posted some time between Saturday night and Sunday morning. We shall again hear what Arthur Sneddon, who was on the spot and an actor in the scene, says regarding it:—

"It was well known that the first day of April, 1820, was to be the starting day for our mighty revolution; and for the five days previous the greatest activity was displayed by the Radical officials. Arms, money, and all requisites for a coming struggle were promised by them, and it was the belief of thousands that an internecine war was at hand. But alas! I knew better. I say alas! for what was to become of us? On Saturday, the first of April, John Neil called upon me. He was one of our chief leaders, and had been our ambassador to Nottingham, and it was he who brought home the arrangement whereby we in Scotland were not to start till 200,000 were up in arms in England. A few days after he came home I advised him to put all his writings and books of a political nature, such as *Paine's Rights of Man*, *Cobbett's Register*, Voltaire, and several others of a revolutionary tendency, out of the house. He had a visit one morning from the police, who carried off a pretty large parcel, and conjecturing he had not taken my advice I went to his home to know if I was right. It appeared he had removed nothing, and so they had taken all the treasonable and seditious documents and books he was possessed of. When I left his house and came out to the street, to my astonishment all was in an uproar. A crowd had collected round the police, and were pelting the poor officials without the smallest compunction. At length the police got under cover and the mob dispersed. Next forenoon two companies of soldiers marched into the street where I lived, and were met by an equal number who came in at the other; and when they formed into line opposite my door, this to me seemed ominous, as matters were in such a state one did not know what would come next. It was not long, however, till things appeared in their true colours; for the Sheriff-Clerk Depute came and told me he had a warrant to arrest me for being engaged in the riot of yesterday. The celebrated William Motherwell was the Depute Sheriff-Clerk. The author of 'Jeanie Morrison' was ill calculated for work of this kind." Mr. Parkhill and another young man were taken before the Fiscal, and after being examined were dismissed. "The purpose of John Neil's visit to me," he continues, "was to show me the celebrated proclamation issued by the provisional government. I read the document, which was exceedingly well drawn up. Next

day (Sabbath) was the big, the important day. On the afternoon and evening a more than usual turnout of the inhabitants might be noticed, together with many from the country. There was little preparation however for the war, further than a few of the most sanguine carrying an old pistol or a gun or enquiring if there was any news from Glasgow. After nightfall, the cavalry as well as the infantry were much engaged in showing themselves in various parts of the town, preparatory for to-morrow's struggle. At seven o'clock in the morning considerable crowds were on the street—very dull, however, and sombre of aspect. By the middle of the day I met occasionally some of our leaders, and on enquiring if that portion of the provisional government connected with Paisley had met or was likely to meet, in sullen gloom received for answer that they did not know. About two o'clock in the afternoon I had a visit from a friend resident in the neighbourhood of Dalry; he served in the Foot Guards and was a determined Radical. He came in expressly to see how we were coming on. I told him my opinion was that nothing would be done—that there was no provisional government in existence, and that there would not be a shot fired. He was mad because there was to be no fighting. It was long before I got him pacified. Our conversation took place in the 'Linn,' a noted hostelry where people were coming and going the whole day, but none could tell what was to be done.¹ In the afternoon I was led to understand that there was to be a meeting on Monday, in the 'Smiddy,' and likewise there was to be a search for arms in the Stanely Barony.² It was also agreed that a forge for making pikes should be established in the Pinnel Glen, near Kilbarchan. Monday morning, the 3rd April, came, the sun

¹ This public-house, the rendezvous of the West-End Radicals, was the corner house in Broomlands at the south-east end of King Street, now the site of the Free Martyrs' Church. The occupant at that time was "Granny Rowan." It was called the Linn because the curlers in the West-End who played at the "Heigh Linn" usually met there.

² During the night or early on the Sunday, a flaming proclamation announcing the rising was placarded up on all the church doors in town and country, stating that the insurrection was to begin that day in London and in the chief towns of England and Ireland, and calling upon the Reformers here to be ready to join them, threatening instant death to all who opposed them. On that Sunday morning the writer of this could not understand what attraction was about the church gate. He saw the chiefs of Reform in motion, hastening to the gate and looking mighty big when turning away from it. Understanding that the cause of this excitement was the proclamation referred to, the minister preached a sermon from the following text:—"Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers; but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men." This produced the happiest consequences in the parish. Except by the musical band, a few wrong-headed men like themselves, the operatives resolved to attend their work as usual. To their honour and credit be it told, they did so; and it was very remarkable that while the whole works of the same kind in Lanarkshire, Dumbartonshire, Renfrewshire, and Ayrshire stood still that week, not one of all the twenty-two large public works stood idle for a moment in Neilston Parish (*Rev. Dr. Fleming in the Statistical Account of Scotland. March, 1837. Vol. vii. p. 324*).

shining in all his majesty. The streets were crowded quite early with friends and foes. The military were also on the alert, and everything promised a busy day. At ten o'clock the 'Smiddy' filled with anxious patriots, and I observed there a great many working-men who, I was sure, would never lift a pike in our favour. A chairman was chosen, and the first subject discussed was the search for arms in the Barony of Stanely. A motion to this effect was carried unanimously. The powder question was then discussed, and many a queer observation was made, it being fully agreed that twopence halfpenny worth should be the stock of ammunition for each individual. A good deal of fun was sported on the occasion, and sly winks passed plentifully between those who considered the whole matter the very height of nonsense. One old fellow, his face perfectly black with indignation, cried out at the top of his voice, 'Behold! the British Government, the strongest on yerth, is to be overturned wi' five bawbees' worth o' cheap poother.' It was then agreed that the searchers for arms should meet at the Braes of Maxwellton in the evening. At the gloaming, as had been agreed upon, a numerous body met at Maxwellton Hill and proceeded to Stanely. In various farm-houses they obtained fire-arms, some of which were of great value. Our party came to Foxbar House, the inmates of which had been prepared, and, with the intention of intimidating the assailants, fired their pieces into the air. At the same time, however, shots were fired from a neighbouring plantation, by which a young lad of the name of Cochran was shot through the heart. It was a singular circumstance that the shot which killed Cochran passed through him and lodged in the elbow-joint of a young lad of the name of M'Kechnie, who was standing beside him. The incidents created some consternation and induced a consultation. One party was for breaking into the house and taking vengeance on the inmates, while another was clear for a retreat. The prudent party at last prevailed, which was fortunate, as a body of cavalry from Paisley were within three minutes' ride of Foxbar House at the time. Intelligence of the dangerous proximity of the horsemen was soon conveyed to the other parties scattered in the vicinity, and, favoured by the darkness, the whole body got safely home. I learned to my sorrow in the evening that a man had been shot. In order to learn who it was I went over to the 'Smiddy,' where half-a-dozen of those who had been at Foxbar were met. They were rather hearty, and said that, so far as they had learned, they supposed it was an old man of the name of David Wylie, one of the most determined of the party, who had fallen. This they thought was good, as he had no relation to lament his loss. The pike-making expedition took place on the same evening, and the place selected was the Pinnel Glen, a very picturesque scene about a mile north of Kilbarchan. Some carried iron, others hammers, and others tools; one stout fellow had the large bellows and two had the heavy anvil. After passing Millarston they fancied they heard the sound of approaching cavalry, and the whole party made

a detour to the north, and crossed Alt-Patrick Burn a little below Elderslie Bridge, and from thence reached Kilbarchan in safety. By this time it was the 'noon of night.' The signal to be given by the Paisley party that they had arrived was to beat on the streets with their sticks. They accordingly rattled away till they were tired; but as not a living soul appeared they began to make a careful scrutiny, but found there was not a light to be seen in the whole village. Every person in the village seemed to be asleep. Of course this most spirited party had to return to Paisley heart-broken at the apathy of the Kilbarchan section of Reformers. I was of opinion that the Kilbarchan people had begun to see the folly of the whole matter, and, being a shrewd set of villagers, had cut the connection. Tuesday, the 4th of April, was rather a stormy day, and rain fell during a great portion of it. There was much dullness manifested. Some talked of Glasgow being up, but belief in these things was getting narrowed every day. The cotton mills in and around Johnstone were stopped, and the military, along with the police, were paying visits to the suspected insurgents. Mr. Motherwell, accompanied by soldiers and constables, paid my house an uninvited visit in the afternoon. After ransacking the house in every corner for pikes and seditious papers, and finding none, he asked my wife if she had any pikes or guns. She said she had nothing but a pretty long spear. Mr. Motherwell very civilly asked a sight of the spear; and on its turning out that her name and that of the warlike weapon were the same, the poet turned on his heel, and laughingly enquired what had become of her husband. Of him she could say nothing, so the author of "Bonnie Jeanie Morrison" went away. When I came home in about an hour afterwards I was informed of what had taken place, on which we came to the conclusion that in the meantime I had no home, and that the future was singularly dark and gloomy. What to do in the circumstances, melancholy to say, we could not tell. Although I had committed no overt acts, the Government which we had to contend with, we knew well, would stick at nothing; and I had perhaps done sufficient to provoke their wrath, and of course enable them to make an example of me; and the punishment even though short of hanging might be terribly severe. I began now to feel my wounds, and no human being could feel them more severely. I found that in the full possession of my senses I had been a most egregious fool, and that very folly was to lead to the dismembering of my family. For the time being I had to sleep where best I could."¹

"Arthur Sneddon," who was a leading actor in Paisley in the Radical rising of 1819-20, has told us a good deal about that eventful period; and he is almost the only one among those who

¹ *Autobiography*, p. 94.—After wandering about the country, under hiding, for some time, he sailed for Montreal. He remained fourteen months in America. Leaving New York on 20th August, he landed at Liverpool twenty-one days thereafter. On coming to Paisley, as trade had improved, he at once obtained work.

were so engaged that has done so. We are thankful for it ; but he might have supplied more information about what took place at the meetings in the "Smiddy" and at the "Linn," where, no doubt, as elsewhere, the plotters discussed, among other matters, whose estates in the neighbourhood should, on the overthrow of the government, be taken possession of, and by what leaders of their party. The aim of his narrative is to throw ridicule, to some extent, on the actings of the Radicals. He also wishes his readers to believe that their proceedings were foolish, and that he told them so, and therefore kept aloof from them. If he had done no more than what he informs us, there would have been no occasion for him to fly from the country. While several who were involved in this revolutionary movement afterwards spoke in similar terms, the great majority held that they were entrapped into it by the emissaries¹ employed by the government. John Parkhill, however, never hints at such a thing, but on the contrary states—referring to the meetings of the Radicals in that period—that "from the commencement till the time it was broken up it is perfectly evident there never was a spy among them."²

On Monday, 3rd April, a firm and intelligible proclamation, of which the following is a copy, was extensively published throughout the town by means of large handbills by the local authorities:—

"Proclamation by the Lord-Lieutenant and the Sheriff of Renfrewshire, and Provost and Magistrates of Paisley.—Information having been received which renders it necessary to adopt immediate precaution for preventing and suppressing riot and disturbance in the town of Paisley and its neighbourhood, and for bringing to justice the persons who may be found concerned therein, the Lord-Lieutenant and Magistracy deem it proper to issue the following orders (and in doing so they have to express their anxiety to prevent the sacrifice of innocent lives, while they declare their determination at all hazards to preserve the peace and maintain the authority of the laws):—1st. Upon the alarm-bell being struck, all well-disposed persons who are not called upon to aid the civil power will retire to their houses, and protect themselves and their property as they best can. 2nd. All persons not called upon as aforesaid shall keep their houses after seven o'clock in the evening until further notice. 3rd. In case of tumult happening after dark, all well-disposed persons will put lights in their upper windows, secure the lower, and retire to the back part of their lodgings. 4th. It is earnestly enjoined that all well-disposed people will avoid standing in closes, as these, in the event of disturbance, will be cleared by military force, without distinction of persons.

¹ See *Exposure of the Spy System during the years 1816 to 1820*, by a Ten Pounder (Peter M'Kenzie), 1832; also *Memoir of John Fraser, Newfield*; also *Radical Rising in Strathaven*, by John Stevenson.

² *History of Paisley*, by John Parkhill, p. 45.

5th. In case of any injury being offered to the civil or military force from houses or otherwise, warning is hereby given that such injury will be retaliated on the spot. 6th. Tavern-keepers will be careful who they admit into their houses ; and in case of tumult will allow no company to remain in their houses, unless such persons as they shall be accountable for ; and no person whatever to be harboured by them after seven o'clock in the evening till farther notice.—Paisley, 3rd April, 1820."

On that day the streets were thronged to an excessive degree. In obedience to the command of the Committee for the Organisation of a Provisional Government, almost all the labouring population abandoned their work ; and where any remained, they were soon either compelled to desist by their companions, or dismissed by their masters because of the threats made against them if they allowed any to remain at work. This was done openly by large bodies of men. Labourers at ordinary occupations were compelled to give up work and swell the crowd. An agent of the Provisional Government had the audacity to go into a printer's office where the workmen were throwing off the proclamations of the civil authorities, and there, in the name of that Provisional Government, commanded them to desist at their peril. The proclamations of the Magistrates were also audaciously torn down, even in the presence of the military. The treatment of the military, including the yeomen, was on every occasion most disgraceful and brutal, and the insults they suffered are almost beyond belief. But the forbearance and moderation of these brave men, even in situations where their lives were in danger, were most honourable to them.¹

¹ The following song was written at that time by a local poet, Mr. John Goldie :—

" What think ye o' our Paisley wabsters sae smart,
 Wha bauldly resolv'd wi' their shuttles to part
 For a sharp pike and a Radical cleg ;
 Wha vow'd that the patriots should be crusht,
 An' the altar o' loyalty levell'd in dust ;
 That nae mair wi' their heddles an' treddles they'd toil,
 But salute a' their faes, on the first o' April,
 Wi' a sharp pike an' a Radical cleg.

" A foragin' party ae e'ening was sent
 On murder an' plunder an' robbery bent,
 Wi' their sharp pikes, &c.
 Some twa-three auld pistols an' guns they had got,
 But the Radicals wanted baith pouter and shot ;
 For without them they cou'dna weel keep up the war,
 But, gude faith, they got plenty o' baith at Foxbar,
 Wi' their sharp pikes, &c.

" At length the lang-leukit-for morning cam' roun',
 When their hosts should assemble in country an' toun,
 Wi' their sharp pikes, &c.
 When they vow'd that such valorous deeds should be done,
 What battles they'd fight, an' what fiels they wad win ;
 But they countit their chickens afore they were hatch'd,
 An' they guttit their haddocks afore they were catch'd,
 Wi' their sharp pikes, &c.

At this critical juncture the civil authorities in Glasgow and Paisley resolved to put down this threatened rebellion at once by force of arms. All the available troops in Scotland, along with a large force of yeomanry cavalry, were assembled in Glasgow and Paisley. As comparative quietness prevailed in the county of Ayr, three troops of the second regiment of the patriotic and loyal yeomen of Ayrshire were sent to Glasgow on Monday, the 3rd of April; on the same day two troops of the first regiment, under Major Crawford, were sent to Paisley; and the remaining three troops of the united Ayrshire corps remained at Ayr. The march of these troops to Paisley and Glasgow caused "much excitement among the country villagers along the line of route, and a considerable amount of unnecessary sympathy was expended upon the poor yeomen who were going, according to the popular belief, to be skivered by the pikemen of Glasgow and Paisley. The two troops of the first regiment reached Paisley about five o'clock in the afternoon, and they appear to have received some delicate attentions from the mob on their arrival. One of the yeomen, who on his entrance into the town had stated to his officer that he did not like the idea of a *rencontre* with an unarmed mob, seems to have undergone a change of sentiments; for on the officer taking notice of the matter in the evening before the troop, the individual in question replied, 'I'm no that man noo, for I've got a brick on the side of my head and anither on my shoulder, and I'm ready to gie them twa for't.'"¹

When this veteran battalion arrived at Paisley wearied with their long march from Ayr, the crowd were heard to observe, "There are three hundred muskets for us." Orders were issued by the leaders of the Radicals that all should provide themselves with cartridges in the event of their procuring muskets. On the Saturday of the posting-up of the rebellious address, weavers were known to cut the webs from their looms, lock up their shops, and declare they would work no more. The ordinary business of life was in a manner suspended. Bank-notes, they were heard to state, would soon be of

"For their courage grew cauld when it cam' to the bit,
 An' the puir bodies thocht it was time to flit,
 Wi' their sharp pikes, &c.
 Their orator leaders turn'd out rather shy,
 An' they thocht it was best to let sleepin' dogs lie;
 For they didna' much relish the leuks o' the chiefs
 Wha were ready to scatter some Wellington pills
 'Mang their sharp pikes, &c.

"Success to each Briton who fearlessly rose
 To defend Freedom's birthplace frae rebels an' foes,
 Wi' their sharp pikes, &c.
 May they ne'er lose the freedom they rose to defend,
 May peace and content spread their wings o'er the land,
 An' may ilk trait'rous chiel wha rebellion wad breed
 Get a prog in the guts an' a skelp on the head
 Wi' a sharp pike an a Radical cleg."

¹ *History of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry*, by W. S. Cooper.

no value ; but they had, they stated, thrown off notes of their own to issue in payment of what they might require. Mr. Cooper, in his excellent history of the Ayrshire yeomanry, states that the first regiment while in Paisley "had also an opportunity of studying the natural history of clegs, many fine specimens of which were to be found there. Once while marching through the town, a member of the mob threw one into the middle of the Ayr troop, whereupon Sergeant Cameron, who did not approve of such insects, galloped after the offender, pursued him through a passage and across several gardens, and eventually secured and brought him back in triumph by the skruff of the neck" (*History of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry*, by W. S. Cooper, p. 19).

The small town of Port-Glasgow, containing only about 3000 inhabitants, brought forward one hundred and twenty volunteers at a call in defence of their country. They cheerfully marched to Paisley at a moment's notice, and were stationed there during the week of excitement and alarm. With others, they submitted to the insults and provocations of the Radicals there without retaliation.

In some other places the demonstrations of the Radicals were even more offensive and violent than they were in Paisley. Early on Wednesday morning a party marched from Glasgow towards Falkirk, in the neighbourhood of which place they expected to meet with friends assembled from all parts of the surrounding country. With this force they intended to attack the works of the Carron Iron Company, where they gave out they had a number of friends, from whom they expected aid in obtaining cannon to assist them in their future operations. On their way thither they called at Castlecary, and for some refreshments they received tendered a Radical note, which the landlord refused. At last they paid him in silver. This Radical force, about fifty in number, not meeting with the support they expected, were overtaken in Bonnymuir by a detachment of about twenty men of the 10th Hussars and Kilsyth Yeomanry, commanded by Lieutenant Hodgson and Lieutenant Davidson. According to the report of Lieutenant Hodgson to General Graham at Stirling Castle, they "found the rebels with arms in their hands on a rising ground, the base of which was skirted by a stone wall, through which there was only one opening affording access to the position taken up by the Radicals. Lieutenant Hodgson immediately led his men to this gap ; but before he reached it the insurgents descended the slope with a cheer, and posted themselves in such a manner as to oppose the passage of the gap. In forcing his way through the lieutenant received a severe wound in the hand from a pike, and his sergeant, who followed him, was also severely wounded in the arm ; and some of the cavalry horses were severely injured or killed. After the cavalry passed fairly through the gap, all resistance was soon at an end. Such of the insurgents as could make their escape did so, and the others threw down their arms and surrendered. A few of the men

who were taken had suffered from the swords of the cavalry."¹ The prisoners taken, amounting to nineteen, were all tried for high treason; and being convicted, were sentenced to be hanged and beheaded, but only two of them suffered the extreme penalty (Andrew Hardie and John Baird²), the others having their sentence commuted to transportation for life.

To keep up the spirits of their followers in Glasgow, the leaders of the Radicals circulated a report that the troops had been defeated. This delusion, however, was soon dispelled; but the leaders had gone too far to draw back. They circulated numerous stories stating that the force to assemble against Glasgow exceeded 80,000 men. French vessels were said to have landed arms and money in Ayrshire. The military were represented as favourable to their cause, and many of the nobility and leading men were alleged secretly to favour their plans. Towards the evening on Wednesday they began openly to muster in the suburbs, preparatory to uniting their forces for attempting the general assault. From 400 to 600 openly paraded in the suburbs of Bridgeton and Calton, with drum and colours, and armed with muskets, pistols, and pikes. Some armed men also proceeded to Rutherglen with drum and flag, beating "to arms," and calling to their friends there to come forward in the glorious cause. The early part of the night, however, was unusually wet and dark, and this tended to cool the ardour of many of them. Cathkin Hill was appointed as the general rendezvous for all the forces downwards from Strathaven and from the country to the south-west and westward. The Strathaven division openly and very boldly set out from that village to the place of appointment. Their flag bore the inscription, "Strathaven—Liberty or Death." They reached the woods of Cathkin—where powder and arms were afterwards discovered—but they were the only division that assembled there out of the many thousands that were expected. After waiting some time, they returned home.³ The Radicals find-

¹ *Memoirs of General Graham*, edited by his son, Col. James J. Graham, p. 283. General Graham was, so states this memoir, "the son of Mr. John Graham and Euphanel Stenson, his wife; was born at Paisley on the 20th May, 1756;" and "received the rudiments of his education at the Paisley Grammar School."

² The admirers of Hardie, Baird, and Wilson collected in 1861 sufficient funds to purchase ground in the Paisley Cemetery and to erect a monument therein to their memory. On 14th October in that year, the Town Council, at the request of a committee of the subscribers, "agreed to accept of the transfer, and to take charge of the ground and monument in trust for behoof of the inhabitants."

³ Mr. John Goldie, in his humorous and clever song of "Radical Bodies, Gae Hame," thus refers to this expedition of the Strathaven Radicals to the Cathkin Braes to join their brethren in the attempt to overthrow the British Government:—

"On Cathkin your camp was nae doubt rather damp,
An' when it began to rain—to rain,
To keep yersel's warm frae the wat an' the storm,
Ye were wise just to step awa' hame—hame—hame.
The cavalry's comin', gae hame—gae hame,
In case you should get yersel' lame—lame—lame;
For I'll wad a groat, if ye slocken a shot,
Ye'll think ye'd been better at hame—at hame.

For the remainder, see *Poems and Songs*, by John Goldie, p. 105.

ing in Glasgow the military prepared at every point, and their own numbers small in comparison, abandoned their plan in despair, threw away or hid their arms, and dispersed in every direction. Many of their pikes were picked up next morning, and many were thrown into the canal and river.

The Magistrates of Glasgow offered a reward of £300 to anyone who would lead to the discovery of the person who printed the seditious address that was issued on the first of April.

During that week there were gatherings of the Radicals and disturbances by them at many other places throughout the country. But by the end of the week the revolutionary spirit was suppressed; Paisley had almost attained its former tranquillity; and the great body of the workmen, except those engaged in the cotton work, had resumed their labour. Many persons, however, were apprehended, charged with the distribution of seditious placards and the holding of arms. On the 7th April the Magistrates deemed it necessary to make a general search for arms, pikes, &c., and also to apprehend suspected persons. In the streets they visited, crowds of people collected, and the constables had to be assisted by the military, who at this time were about 1000 strong. A fatal accident occurred at the head of Lady Lane. The soldiers were repeatedly employed in driving back the multitude. Numbers received bayonet wounds, even very severe ones; and an old man of the name of Campbell was so much injured that he died in a very short time afterwards.

On the 8th of April, King George IV. issued a proclamation offering a reward of £500 to any person giving such information as would lead to the discovery of the authors and printers of the treasonable paper distributed on the first day of April.

The presence of the yeomanry cavalry from Ayrshire and the volunteers from Port-Glasgow being no longer required in Paisley, they were, with the thanks of the Lord-Lieutenant for their good conduct, directed to return to their respective homes. In consequence of the crowded state of Paisley Prison, five prisoners were sent on 8th April to Greenock Jail escorted by the Port-Glasgow volunteers. A considerable crowd had collected on the arrival of the prisoners, but no disposition was shown to annoy the military in the execution of their duty till they were about to return, when some stones were wantonly thrown among them. As the volunteers repassed through the town, more stones were thrown, and they fired their pieces at the assailants, when two persons were wounded. Instead of the attacks of the crowd becoming less, they became more frequent, and many of the volunteers were wounded. A sort of running fight ensued till they were almost clear of the town. In this encounter six were killed and fifteen severely wounded. In the evening a crowd collected at the square — there being no military to restrain them — when they broke open the outer gate, forced the inner doors of the jail, and succeeded in liberating the five men brought from Paisley. The other prisoners were allowed to remain.

The following is a copy of a proclamation that was issued that evening :—

“ Proclamation by the Magistrates of Greenock, Sheriff of Renfrewshire, and Justices of the Peace.—Whereas, in consequence of the outrageous assault made this evening on the Prison of Greenock, and the rescue therefrom of five prisoners confined on a charge of high treason, the Magistrates have deemed it their duty to call in a strong military force for the security of the town ; and they solemnly warn the inhabitants to avoid all breaches of the peace and all molestation or insult of the military, who have positive orders from the highest civil authority in Scotland to act instantly in self-defence in case of receiving personal insult : All persons therefore who presume to molest the military have themselves alone to blame for the consequences that may ensue. A reward of fifty guineas is hereby offered by the Magistrates of Greenock to any person who will give such information as will lead to the conviction of the persons guilty of the foresaid assault and rescue.—Council Chambers, Greenock, 8th April, 1820.”

Many of the Radicals in Paisley in endeavouring to keep out of the hands of the authorities made some very narrow escapes. John Dickie was an active leader among them, and as he frequently conducted their correspondence, may be said to have been one of their secretaries. A warrant was issued to apprehend him and to search his house. As the officers were on the stair leading to the house, someone having informed his wife of their approach, she seized his papers and thrust them into the kettle, then on the fire. The officers never thought of looking there, and had to go away without obtaining anything of importance. She immediately thereafter destroyed the papers.

On 6th June, Mr. Maxwell, M.P., presented a petition to the House of Commons from distressed persons within the town of Paisley to afford them means to emigrate to Canada.

A Special Commission of Oyer and Terminer was appointed by the King for trying those charged with high treason in Scotland, and courts were held at Stirling, Glasgow, Paisley, and Ayr. The Special Commission in coming to Paisley went on board of a steam vessel at Dumbarton, having come that way from Stirling, and landed at Renfrew, where they were met by the authorities from Paisley, and conveyed to the Tontine Hotel, escorted by a detachment of hussars. On 1st July their lordships and attendants went to St. George's Church, where the trials were to take place, followed by a great crowd. The doors were guarded by the police. Half-an-hour before the judges took their seats, the doors were thrown open for the indiscriminate admission of the public to the lower part of the church, and no one was kept out while there was sitting-room, but none were allowed to stand in the passages. The admission to the galleries was by ticket. The

judges were the Lord President, Lord Justice Clerk, and Lord Chief Commissioner. The Lord President delivered the charge to the Grand Jury. The court retired for an hour and a-half, and returned with true bills against James Speirs, weaver, Johnstone; John Lang, weaver, Kilbarchan; John Smellie, weaver, Elderslie; James Walker, weaver, Johnstone; Robert Parker, shoemaker, Johnstone; James Nixon, weaver, Elderslie; and John Young, as guilty of high treason. The first two were indicted; the last five were not in custody. The prisoners named Francis Jeffrey and J. P. Grant, advocates, as their counsel; and Messrs. P. & J. Jack, writers, Paisley, as their agents. The court fixed that the prisoners should be arraigned on the 22nd July, and their trial take place a few days afterwards. The Rev. J. Finlay officiated as chaplain, and offered up a most appropriate prayer at the opening of the court. Their lordships' carriages were escorted back to the Tontine Inn by a party of the hussars and the Paisley Rifle Corps. The duty of guarding them afterwards devolved upon the 13th Regiment, whose guard-house was immediately behind the inn. The crowd which followed the Commission gathered round the door and pressed upon the military. While the soldiers were driving back the people, one man who lived at Elderslie received a slight stab in the arm, and a young man of the name of Logie was cut severely in the head with a halbert. The indignation of the crowd was immediately directed against the sergeant. Observing this ferment, the sergeant ordered a fresh relief from the guards, and set down his halbert. Provost Jamieson, who was present, at once made an enquiry into the charge of harshness, the result being that the sergeant was sent to the Police Office. Afterwards the soldiers at the door were ordered to remove their bayonets from their muskets, and in that condition they did duty during the time their lordships remained in town. On the 22nd the indictment was read before the judges to the prisoners, who pleaded not guilty. The court informed them that they must be prepared to take their trial on Tuesday, the 1st of August, to which day the court adjourned. On that day there were present the Lord President, Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Pitmilley, and the Lord Chief Baron. The counsel for the Crown were the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor-General; for the prisoners, Messrs. Grant and Sandford. The counsel for the Crown intimated that they would proceed first with the trial of James Speirs. The jury were — Sir Michael Shaw-Stewart, Bart., Allan Ker, John M'Naught, Robert Hunter, Alexander Leiper, James Coats, Gavin Browning, Matthew Rodger, David Trail, John Gibson, Thomas Wright, and James Wilson. The indictment against James Speirs was to the effect that he attempted to stop the cotton mills at Johnstone from working, according to the orders of the Provisional Government as stated in their proclamation of 1st April. In the indictment there were four counts, and in some of these there were nineteen overt acts of high treason. After a great many witnesses were examined in behalf of the Crown, the court adjourned till the following day.

Mr. Sandford then addressed the jury in a long speech, and argued that it was their duty to return a verdict of not guilty. Afterwards a great many witnesses were examined by Mr. Grant and Mr. Sandford on behalf of the prisoner, at the close of which Mr. Grant addressed the jury on his behalf; and was followed by the Lord-Advocate for the Crown, who asked the jury to return a verdict of guilty. The Lord Justice Clerk then went over the evidence. At twenty minutes before four o'clock on the following morning (Thursday), the jury withdrew to consider their verdict, and returned in one hour and twenty minutes thereafter, intimating as their verdict that the prisoner was guilty of the fifteenth overt act in the first count of the indictment, but unanimously recommending him to mercy. As the stopping of the mills had no connection with high treason nor the compassing the life of the King, the court would not receive such a verdict. The jury were then sent back to reconsider their verdict, and returned in rather more than an hour and gave in a verdict similar to the first. As this verdict was also rejected by the court, the jury again withdrew, and returned at eight with a verdict of not guilty. Of this announcement the audience immediately manifested their approbation by cheering and clapping of hands. The court pointed out a young man of the name of James Mitchell who was more noisy than the others, and by their orders he was instantly taken into custody and sent to jail, but he was liberated soon afterwards. James Speirs was discharged after receiving a suitable admonition from the court. The Lord-Advocate intimated that he would not lead any evidence against John Lang, and would accept of a sentence of acquittal. They therefore found him not guilty, and he was discharged (*Trials for High Treason in Scotland*, vol. iii.). The joy of the people that were waiting, on the acquittal of James Speirs,¹ was unbounded. They carried him through several of the streets shoulder-high, and his agent, Mr. Peter Jack, was similarly treated. Thus concluded this great trial; and it may be said to mark the termination of the period known by the name of the "Radical War," or, as sometimes called, the "Radical Rising." The story we have now told indicates the prevailing tone of highly-pronounced and strongly-advanced political feeling at that time among the working-classes of Paisley, which has caused the name of our town to be known over the land as a centre of Radicalism, and very likely induced the late observant Lord Beaconsfield to advise his party to "keep their eye upon Paisley."

An interesting correspondence took place in October, 1831, between Sheriff Dunlop and Mr. Wallace of Kelly. Mr. Wallace, at a meeting of the Renfrewshire Political Union, accused the anti-

¹ In 1850 public subscriptions were raised in Paisley by the friends and admirers of James Speirs. About £20 was obtained in this way and presented to him. At that time he lived in Sneddon district, and within two years thereafter he died in great destitution.

reforming authorities, meaning the Sheriffs, with bringing troops into the county with the view of raising, as formerly, a commotion. Sheriff Dunlop, in a letter to Mr. Wallace dated the 13th of that month, asked if he referred to the Sheriffs of Renfrewshire, and on what authority he founded his assertion that he (the Sheriff) was "desirous of exciting a commotion in Renfrewshire, and had adopted means for producing it." Mr. Wallace replied in a long letter of the following day. "I believe," he stated, "that persons in the confidence and employment and pay of the Government were sent among the people to stir them up to mischief, and did stir them up to it in the years 1818 and 1819; and that troops were poured at that time into all parts of the county at the request of the authorities,—none of whom ever contradicted the allegation, although a thousand times advanced, of hired spies and informers having betrayed the people into acts of insubordination." Mr. Wallace in the same letter further asked the following questions:—
"1st. Had you officially as Sheriff, or privately, directly or indirectly, any information of the intention of sending or the actual employment of any strangers in the county of Renfrew for the purpose of gathering information as to the views and feelings and conduct of the people during the years 1818, 1819, and 1820, for your own use, that of others, or the Government? 2nd. Did you, officially or privately, directly or indirectly, know of any persons being employed as above, or receiving pay or rewards, or communicating with the other authorities,—such men belonging to or being resident in Glasgow or in Renfrewshire, or any other county of Scotland? 3rd. Was a man of the name of Richmond employed as above to your knowledge, or did he to your knowledge communicate of his own accord with you officially or privately, directly or indirectly, or with others in office in the county, or the Crown officers; and did he or did he not, so far as you may know or have heard, receive public money or obtain pension or place from Government?" Sheriff Dunlop, in a letter five days afterwards, among other matters stated—"I am not aware of having been accused during the years 1818 and 1819 of such odious conduct as that which your queries imply; nor can I admit the propriety of being now subjected to interrogatories on the subject when no proof or even presumption of guilt has been adduced. Waiving, however, all such considerations, I shall answer your questions in the manner you desire—'frankly, explicitly, and on the honour of a gentleman.' To the whole questions you have comprehended under the first head, I answer distinctly and decidedly, *No*. To the second query I give the same reply, with this understanding, that I presume the question is not meant of the Sheriff having according to his duty obtained his information by fair and legal means on every point that concerned the peace of the district. I also answer *No* to the third query, with this exception, that I have certainly heard that the person referred to had been employed as a spy, but only heard this report through the usual channels of public com-

munication, and have no knowledge whatever with regard to the truth of the surmise. My answers to these three interrogatories apply to the Sheriff-Substitutes as well as to myself, according to the best of my knowledge and my implicit belief." Mr Wallace replied to this letter, but there was not anything in his reply of public importance.

The race-course around the "four-and-twenty acres" used at the end of the last century was changed within the period we are considering. The new course chosen was along Underwood Road, Greenhill Road, to the Greenock Road either by the lane now called Murray Street or by the lane farther north, and back to Underwood Road by Caledonia Street. It is not stated why this change was made, but it does not appear to have been an improvement upon the former course. As the Council records make no reference to the races during this time, they must have been managed by other persons in the town. Along a good part of the sides of this new course there were dangerous ditches. On the forenoon of the day on which the races were to be run, the "Silver Bells" were brought from the Town Clerk's office, and exhibited in one of the windows of the Tollbooth at the Cross. The conditions under which the races were to be run were kept in the Town's Inn, and the horses entered there for the "Bells" and after-shots. At the same time also stewards, judge, and starter were appointed, according to the ancient custom of the burgh. The conditions or articles were generally as follows:—"The riders and horses to be at the starting-post at four o'clock, and to run twice round the ordinary course, and afterwards to the winning-post near the south end of Caledonia Street. No horse, mare, or gelding which ever gained a place, purse, or prize of the value of £50, to be allowed to be entered. No crossing or unfair jockeyship to be practised; and if the rider of the horse who shall first reach the winning-post be convicted of having employed any unfair methods in the course of the race, the prize shall be withheld from him, and adjudged to the owner of the horse which succeeded him. The prize to consist of a pair of "Silver Bells," which must be immediately restored on payment of two guineas. The owner of the horse arriving second at the winning-post shall receive an allowance of half-a-guinea." In going to the starting-place at the race-course the procession was first formed at the Cross, and consisted of the four town officers in front in full dress, with their halberds, and frequently some of the bailies. The town drummer was also there to beat his drum when necessary, and the "Bells" were carried to the stand at the starting-place on the race-course suspended from the point of one of the town officer's halberds. In this way they marched with great show to the course, followed by an immense crowd of people of every age. While many went to see the races on the roads along which the horses ran, others went to the north side of Oakshawhill, where a distant but safe view was obtained. The race was, as already

stated in the articles, run in heats, and these had the effect of prolonging the period of the racing. Several scaffolds also were erected at different places for those who chose to pay for this superior accommodation in order to have a better view of the races. Accidents sometimes, however, unfortunately occurred in connection with these, in consequence of their not being securely fitted up. One of these took place at the races in August, 1816. A scaffold fell, and although none of those who were upon it were seriously injured, yet a young woman with a child in her arms who was standing underneath it was killed on the spot by some of the wood falling on her head. It is very remarkable that no harm occurred to the child.

The St. James Fair extended over three days. On Thursday, the first day, there was a well-attended horse and cattle market. On the following two days the public works in the town and neighbourhood were all stopped to permit the workers, along with the farm-servants and others, to see the famous Paisley "Bell" race and the other attractions at the fair. The number visiting the race in August, 1820, was comparatively small, but in the following year the attendance was great. The races and fair are thus described in the *Glasgow Chronicle* of 14th August, 1821:—

"The races at Paisley last week were uncommonly well attended, particularly on Saturday—indeed, more so than was ever remembered. The day was uncommonly fine, and crowds of all ranks from every part of the country assembled, and many equestrians and pedestrians went from this city. Five horses started at twelve o'clock for the principal race, and two other races took place in the afternoon at three and five o'clock—the last of which was an excellent race, and well contested. It was highly gratifying to observe the good humour that pervaded all classes in the community. Everything went off agreeably, and we have heard of no serious accidents that happened. Notwithstanding the great concourse of people, the streets long before midnight were all quiet, and nothing like noise was heard. Paisley race-course with a little improvement might be made as fine a one as in the kingdom. The local situation both for seeing and running is admirable; and considering that we have no races at Glasgow, it would be desirable that something were done to improve the race-course at Paisley. We are happy to understand that this is in contemplation, and we doubt not the local authorities of the town and the gentlemen of the county will give every aid and encouragement to it."

At the races in the following year some serious accidents occurred. With the exception of one of the races, riders were thrown from their horses. At one of the races two riders and two horses came down, and were much hurt—one of the riders being carried from the course in a state of insensibility. The other rider was also taken in an apparently lifeless state to the adjoining field, where animation was restored by his having his arm lanced by a medical

gentleman who happened to be at the place at the time. These accidents were caused by an inattentive man coming in contact with one of the horses. He was himself severely injured. A child was also knocked down by one of the race-horses, and hurt severely in the face and eyes.

One of the many benevolent and useful societies established in this period was that for the education of those poor children who laboured under the grievous calamity of being deaf and dumb. In November, 1817, a public meeting of the inhabitants was held in the Court Hall for the purpose of considering the propriety of having such an institution—Sheriff Campbell presiding. After several gentlemen had addressed the meeting, it was unanimously resolved that such a society should be established, and those present appointed William Fulton, jun., president; David Wallace, treasurer; and George Carswell, secretary, along with eighteen directors.

On 10th January, 1860, a general meeting of the managers and friends of the Deaf and Dumb Society was held in the Council Chambers—Mr. William Phillips of Crossflat in the chair. Mr. Archibald Gardner, the secretary, stated that during the last three years three pupils were in attendance at the Glasgow Institution, one of whom had completed the curriculum of six years in August last; that during the same period seven pupils, from sixteen to thirty years of age, were under the tuition of Mr. Mitchell four nights a week,—two of whom left at the end of two years, and five were still in regular attendance. Since 1833 a class for religious instruction was open to all the mutes in town every Sabbath evening, conducted by Mr. Mitchell, and was attended by about ten adults. Mr. Gardner further stated that the society, since its commencement in 1817, had educated thirty-three pupils, in addition to the seven then under instruction, and the claims for the education of the mutes in town had been fully met.

Near the end of the second decade of our century, considerable agitation prevailed in the town on the subject of Burgh Reform. A public meeting of the feuars and burgesses, called by public advertisement, was held in the West Relief Church, Canal Street, on 29th September, 1819,—Mr. William Barr, writer, in the chair,—when it was resolved, by a considerable majority, that as the inhabitants were lawfully entitled to choose their Magistrates and Councillors, and to audit their accounts, measures should forthwith be adopted for regaining their authority. The meeting likewise disapproved of the Council exacting a fourth part of a year's rent, instead of an eighth, for entering vassals. Provost Carlile moved an adjournment of the meeting, to give the inhabitants time to consider these matters, and stated that neither the Council nor himself were disposed to resist any well founded proposal of the burgesses. The Provost's motion, however, was only supported by a small

portion of the meeting. Subsequent to this meeting, and before the end of the year, numerous printed statements and pamphlets were issued from the press on this subject. The Town Council themselves entered into the controversy "in vindication of their official conduct against certain charges published by a committee of feuars and burgesses." This vindication, which referred to the selling of the life-rent superiority,—a new Crown charter alleged to have invaded the privileges of the feuars,—the admitting of burgesses to elect the councillors, the raising the entries of vassals from one-eighth to a quarter of the yearly rent, and the giving of facilities for the inspection of the public accounts, "was ordered to be printed and circulated and inserted in the newspapers." Another meeting on burgh reform—convened by Mr. Barr, writer—was held on 5th March, 1819, but the demand for parliamentary reform and other political agitations, superseded any further movements of this kind. At this time the electing of Magistrates and Councillors was conducted in a very curious and circuitous manner, and the plan continued till the passing of the Burgh Reform Bill in 1833. It was thus:—On the Monday preceding the day of election the Council, by a general vote, nominated five of their number as a leet or list for Treasurer, and fourteen persons who had formerly been in Council as a leet for ordinary Councillors. These fourteen and six individuals were elected by each of the Councillors present naming one in rotation; but should the number of the Councillors be less than twenty, so as to leave the list incomplete, the remainder were supplied by a general vote. On the day of election, the Treasurer, five old and three new Councillors, were chosen by a general vote, and after administration of the oaths prescribed by law, they, accompanied by the Burgh Clerk, retired to an ante-chamber, and chose thirteen of the former Council, making, *in toto*, the number twenty-two, of whom the Council for the year to come was to be composed. The old and new Council afterwards nominated three persons in succession to retire into an adjoining room, and select one of them to return who was, of course, one of the leet for Magistrates, and he in turn suggested another who should retire in his stead, and if approved by the Council, which was usually the case, that person retired; and from the three thus in the other apartment the Council selected one who also was in the leet for Magistrates, and in a similar way one was voted out and another in, until the number of nine, composing the leet, was completed. These nine having given their votes *sigillatim*, again retired; and those remaining in the Council Chamber having given their votes, the election was decided in favour of those who appeared to have the majority.

Several claims for damages suffered from the riots in 1819-20, and also for the accommodation of troops, were made to the Council. That body took the advice of counsel, who gave it as their opinion that it was from the county the claims were recoverable.

The county objected to this. After much correspondence, the government allowed £428 towards the charges incurred for cavalry, infantry, &c., in consequence of these riots; and the Council and County in August, 1821, agreed that the balance should be paid equally by both parties. Before this arrangement could be carried out, several parties raised an action before the Sheriff against both the town and the county, for the recovery of the sums due to them. The Sheriff found the Magistrates, as representing the community, liable in the damages, reserving to them relief against the community; "and in respect that the Magistrates of burghs are the parties liable in terms of the statute for damages committed during riots within burghs," assoilzied the county. It was not, however, till April, 1825, that the expenses connected with these riots were finally adjusted, when the Council authorised an assessment of 2¼d. per £ to be made upon the annual rental of all houses and possessions within the burgh.

In 1819-20 a rifle corps was raised in Paisley with the greatest alacrity to aid the civil power and the special constables in maintaining peace in the town. They were frequently called "the dandy riflemen," and sometimes the sharp-shooters. They consisted of two companies, and never exceeded 120 rifles each. The first company was under Captain M'Alpine, as captain commandant; Captain Stewart commanded the second company. Mr. Halden was first lieutenant in the first company, and Mr. Thomas Carlile was the other officer. Under Captain Stewart was Mr. William Carlile, then a silk yarn manufacturer, afterwards bleacher at Houston. Mr. A. H. Simpson, writer, was sergeant-major; Dr. Joseph Macleod, surgeon. The band instruments were all key bugles, except black Peter's drum; and much of the music was composed by Mr. R. A. Smith. Captain M'Alpine served in America, and for his service there was entitled to a grant of land. Captain Stewart served in the royals, and was also in America, but not in war-time. He was an authority in his regiment on all matters connected with discipline and drill. Lieutenant Halden served in the 21st regiment, and was with it at New Orleans when it suffered severely in consequence of the 44th not being forward with the fascines, on which the 21st was to cross the ditch. This rendered the attack a failure. All these officers served in Spain and rose by merit. It was no uncommon thing for clerks and warehousemen to be at work in uniform, with their arms beside them, ready at the signal (the ringing of the High Church bell) to turn out; and they mounted guard with the regulars. Sometimes a regular officer, and sometimes a rifle officer, was in command of the guard. On more than one occasion they were on guard for twenty-four hours; and were at Foxbar, along with a party of the 13th regiment, under the command of Sergeant Leiper. The following well-known names formed part of the corps:—Messrs. John Dunn, writer; John Gemmill, writer; Alexander Macfarlane, banker;

Rev. James Smith, Cathcart; John Crawford, writer; Thomas Henderson, accountant; James Lymburn, merchant; John Crawford, teacher of dancing; John Mair, shoe merchant; Alexander Wardrop, manufacturer; Alexander Bartholomew, Glasgow; George Miller, Glasgow; James Murphy, Glasgow; Alexander M'Lean, Andrew Sinclair, Thomas Cook, James Miller, William Sharp, Robert Stevenson, Thomas Risk, John Jamieson, William Semple, &c. The corps reached a high state of discipline, and often were complimented by general officers by whom they were reviewed.

Measures were adopted at the end of 1820 for defraying certain expenses incurred in the equipment of the yeomanry cavalry of the county; and the Council on the 21st January following voted the sum of £25 for that purpose, being at the rate of £2 10s. per £100 scots of the community's valuation. The county authorities contributed their subscription in a similar manner.

Many of the inhabitants of Paisley, like those of several other towns, took great interest in the proceedings connected with the "Bill of Pains and Penalties" raised against the Consort of George IV. A public meeting was held and an address to Queen Caroline agreed to; and the writer of it—Mr. John M'Gregor—was arrested by the orders of the Lord-Advocate. When the news arrived on 23rd April, 1821, of the abandonment of that prosecution, those who were favourable to the Queen's cause exhibited a great amount of joy, and agreed to have an illumination, when the Magistrates published a proclamation prohibiting bonfires and the carrying of tar-barrels and the discharging of fire-arms. The order was generally obeyed, and the illumination was only partial. A number of devices were exhibited. A green bag and several figures meant to represent certain characters were burned with some ceremony. By midnight the streets were as quiet as usual. The proceedings against Mr. M'Gregor were abandoned.

In 1821 a very correct and superior map of the town and suburbs, upon a large scale, was published by Mr. Knox, Edinburgh. Its dimensions were two feet nine inches by two feet.

The removal of the disabilities to which Roman Catholics were subjected, were in April, 1822, brought before Parliament by Mr. Canning, who proposed to empower Roman Catholic Peers to act as members of the House of Lords. The country objected to this measure; and in Paisley a meeting of ministers and members of different congregations in the town and neighbourhood was held, and resolutions against the bill were passed. A petition, founded upon these resolutions, was subscribed by a considerable number of ministers, magistrates of the town and county, and by nearly four thousand of the inhabitants. The petition was presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Robert Peel, and to the House of Lords by the Earl of Liverpool.

The year 1824 was notable in the literary annals of Paisley for

the commencement in it of the first newspaper. For many years prior to that time the want of a newspaper to chronicle passing local events, and to afford facilities for advertising, for the discussion of social and political subjects, both local and of a general nature, was severely felt. For such and much other information the inhabitants were almost entirely dependent upon the newspapers published in other places. And although in these were narrated some of the principal events that occurred in the town, yet in many respects they fell far short of supplying the wants of our community. Before the commencement of the first newspaper, several periodicals had been issued weekly and monthly from the Paisley press for a time and had then disappeared. Of these we may mention the following:—*Annual Miscellany or Literary Recreations*, 1812; *Paisley Repository*, 1812; *Weavers' Magazine*, 2 vols., 1817-19; *Harp of Renfrewshire*, 1819; *Paisley Literary Miscellany*, 1823; *Moral and Literary Observer*, 1823; *The Comet*, 1823; *The Gaberlunzie*, 1824. *The Tickler* did not appear till 1828; and *The Paisley Magazine*, now so much prized, was published in the same year.

The desire to have a newspaper in Paisley was general. The first meeting was held in the Saracen's Head Inn on 11th August, 1824, when Provost James Carlile was in the chair. The following were appointed a committee to obtain shareholders to subscribe the capital required:—Provost Carlile; Bailies Matthew Boyd, William Gilmour, Andrew Deans, and Treasurer M'Donald, along with fifteen gentlemen—Provost Carlile, convener. Messrs. Barr, Hart, and Auld, writers, were appointed to prepare conditions for the signature of the shareholders. When these were agreed upon and the company established, the proprietors were as follows:—John Auld, William Barr, John Bell, John Boyd, Matthew Boyd, Gavin Browning, jun., John Caldwell, Edward Campbell, John Campbell, Alexander Carlile, James Carlile, Thomas Carswell, jun., James Coats, James Cook, John Craig, David Crawford, William Currie, Thomas Dick, James Dunn, William Falconer, Robert Farquharson, John Fleming, Joseph Fleming, Peter Fraser, Alexander Fullarton, Andrew Gibson, John Gibson, John Lawrence, jun., John Lymburn, William Lyon, George Miller, Andrew Millar, Henry Miller, William Motherwell, John Macalister, Archibald M'Alpine, Adam M'Cargow, Neil M'Donald, Robert M'Kechnie, M.D., Joseph M'Leod, John Neilson, Robert Patison, John Paton, William Paton, James Peddie, John Peddie, P. A. Ramsay, John Scott, James Scroggie, James Shearer, James Shearer, jun., William Sim, Robert Smith, William Stirling, Hugh Strathern, Matthew Taylor, William Gilmour, John Goldie, John Halden, John Hamilton, John Hart, William Hart, John Hunter, M. W. Ivison, John Jamieson, James Lamb, William Taylor, James Walker, William Waterston, Alexander Wilson, James Wilson, John Wilson, jun., Robert Wilson, and William Wylie.

By article VI. of the constitution, the editor was bound not to

indulge in strong party politics, but to take a medium course. The first editor was Mr. James Goldie, and the first number of the *Paisley Advertiser* appeared on the 9th October, 1824, and continued to be published weekly on the Saturdays thereafter.

In the following year another weekly newspaper commenced to be published in Paisley. On the 8th January, 1825, the following advertisement appeared in the *Paisley Advertiser*:—"Early in February will be published No. 1 of a new liberal and independent weekly newspaper, entitled the *Renfrewshire Chronicle*, to be published every Friday afternoon. The prospectus will appear in the course of a few days." We find a notice to the following effect in the *Paisley Advertiser* of 17th September following:—"At a meeting of the proprietors of the *Renfrewshire Chronicle*, held on Monday last, it was resolved that, after the present number, the publication should be discontinued.—*Renfrewshire Chronicle*, 15th September." The twenty-fifth number, "printed by R. Fraser, Coffee-Room Buildings," dated 11th August, 1825, is in the Reference Department of the Free Library; and, looking to the date of its stoppage, there have been in all thirty numbers published.

The following is an extract from a very interesting report to the Town Council, by a committee of their number, relating to the Statute Labour Fund, for the year 1824:—

Number of persons assessed,	...	...	...	5630
Persons considered poor,	...	...	...	580
Certificates of inability,	...	...	...	517
Exemptions from military service,	...	...	...	177
Removed, and not yet found,	...	...	...	233
			—	1507
				<u>4123</u>
143 houses, kept by 92 persons, at 10s.,	...	£71	10	0
Houses rented above £10—250 at 5s.,	...	62	10	0
Houses rented under £10—3781 at 3s.,	...	567	3	0
		£701	3	0
				<u> </u>
Collected in five months,	...	...	£357	0 0
Remaining uncollected,	...	...	344	3 0
				<u> </u>
In 1822, the amount of statute labour money				
collected was	...	...	£341	7 0
In 1823,	...	...	358	18 0
				<u> </u>

Immediately after the inhabitants had celebrated the great victory of the British arms at Waterloo, a number of gentlemen in town formed a Waterloo club. At the anniversary meetings they

dined together ; and the ninth and last was held on the 18th June, 1825, in the Saracen's Head Inn. Provost Farquharson was in the chair ; supported by Colonel Mure and Sheriff Campbell. William Lowndes, Esq., acted as croupier, and the meeting was numerous and highly influential. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, the Provost, in an eloquent speech, proposed the toast of "the Duke of Wellington and his illustrious warriors of the memorable 18th of June, 1815." Among the other toasts given during the course of the evening were, "the memory of our gallant countrymen who laid down their lives in raising their country's fame and in achieving the most splendid victory that ever adorned the annals of history ;" "the King of Prussia and his brave warriors ;" "His Majesty's Ministers, and may they continue to increase the comforts and decrease the burdens of the people ;" "Sir Edward Paget and the army in India ;" "Colonel Mure and the Renfrewshire Militia ;" "Lord Kelburne and the Renfrewshire Yeomanry ;" "Colonel Snodgrass, Captain Macalpine, and the Paisley Rifle Corps ;" "The friendly union of Whig and Tory ;" "Plenty in the land the best guarantee for loyalty in the people," &c.

Well might Paisley rejoice over such a termination to so disastrous a war. As a home of peaceful industry, she can only hope to thrive by the blessings of peace. The self-aggrandising war of Buonaparte brought only mischief to her, and his downfall was the herald of increased prosperity in all departments of her manufactures and trade.

CHAPTER XVII.

1825 TILL 1850.



T several periods in this century, we have been under the necessity of recording great depressions of trade in the town, with accompanying distress among the industrious classes. But the bad trade and commercial gloom that swept over the country in the latter part of 1825, the whole of 1826, and a part of 1827, was the most severe that had been experienced in Paisley. The unfavourable condition of trade which prevailed, more or less, between 1817 and 1822, was followed in 1823 and 1824 by great prosperity. Money became abundant; labour was in great demand and was well paid; speculation was rife; and the public funds, which stood in the money market at £65 in 1820, rose to £96 in 1824. But in the autumn of 1825 a sad change began to manifest itself, and by the beginning of 1826 trade became generally depressed throughout the country. It was on 27th February in this year that the distress existing among the operatives, from inability to procure employment, was first brought under the notice of the Town Council, who, thinking that this state of matters would only be temporary, arranged with the General Session to obtain funds from the Directors of the Town's Hospital, to afford assistance to the most necessitous. On the 23rd of the following month, the Provost reported to the Council that the number of weavers, with their dependants, out of employment and requiring assistance had increased to 2200. To obtain the additional funds required to assist those in distress, the Council, still thinking the depression in trade would soon pass away, authorised a supplementary assessment to be raised by the Directors of the Town's Hospital. This was also found to be quite inadequate. As many of the operatives in the villages in the surrounding district were suffering from inability to find work, a county meeting was held on 27th March, to decide what should be done. The attendance at the meeting was both numerous and influential. The deepest interest was displayed in the extent of the distress that existed, and the greatest anxiety for its removal. Upwards of £600 was subscribed by those present. Another meeting, also numerously attended, of gentlemen belonging to the town, was held for the same purpose on 3rd April following. The greatest unanimity prevailed among those present in their desire to assist those suffering severe hardships from want of employment. The amount subscribed at the meeting, and within a few days thereafter, was upwards of £700. By the end of April the town and

county subscriptions, which were conjoined, amounted to £2657. In Paisley at this time there were three thousand looms idle; in Kilbarchan, three hundred out of seven hundred; and in Houston, fifty out of eighty-four. By the middle of May the number out of employment in Paisley and neighbourhood, along with their dependants, amounted to 12,890. As distress from want of employment prevailed among the operatives throughout nearly the whole country, subscriptions for their relief were commenced in London; and so much was the object approved of, that £18,000 was raised during the first day. By the middle of June the weekly expenditure for the support of the unemployed and their dependants amounted to £540. The money received in the locality could not meet this great outlay, but funds were fortunately obtained from other sources. The King subscribed £500 to the funds; and money was sent from the London manufacturing committee; from Newcastle, Bristol, Edinburgh, and Greenock. In the beginning of July the number of persons in Paisley and district wholly or partially depending on the fund for relief was nearly 15,000. Another county meeting was held, and further sums subscribed for the relief of the distressed operatives.

In several towns in England there were severe riots, much property was destroyed, the military was called out and lives were lost. The object of the rioters was to destroy power-looms, as the cause of the depression in hand-loom weaving. In spite of the privations the operatives in Paisley and surrounding district endured, they conducted themselves in a most orderly and exemplary manner. Several of them were engaged in improving the foot-paths on the roads surrounding the town, and many were employed upon the banks and towing-path of the River Cart. The Council were so satisfied with the operations at the river, that on 11th July they voted £150 to the relief fund.

Towards the end of August the general trade of the country showed symptoms of improvement, and as these continued and gradually increased, the operatives obtained work; and by February in the following year, the applications for relief ceased altogether.

The money expended in relieving the distress of the operatives at this time, was upwards of £13,000; and of this sum £3,700 was received from the London manufacturing committee. The Council were so much pleased with the generous conduct of Mr. Robert Peel, M.P., the Home Secretary, that they sent an address to him expressing their best thanks "for the anxious solicitude, patient attention, and benevolent interest exhibited by him in his official capacity relative to this district of the country, during a protracted period of unexampled distress." Mr. Peel's interesting reply to Provost Farquharson was as follows:—

"Whitehall Gardens, 7th May, 1827.

"SIR,—I request that you will assure the Magistrates and common Council of the Burgh of Paisley, that the sentiments of

respect and esteem which they have expressed towards me are very gratifying to my feelings. The daily communications which for many months came respecting the state of the district in which Paisley is situated, have left impressions on my mind which will cause me to take a lasting interest in its welfare. The painful sensations inseparable from the contemplation of severe distress were relieved by the consolatory reflection that every local effort was made for the mitigation of it that could be made by benevolence unremittingly and most judiciously directed towards its object. I can never forget either the zealous exertions of that benevolence, or the patient fortitude with which misfortunes were borne by the immediate sufferers. The mutual feelings of good-will between all classes of society which have sprung from the near and affecting relations in which they were thus placed towards each other, will, I am confident, long survive the occasion which gave them birth, and will be a lasting compensation for an evil the pressure of which was so severe. With many acknowledgments to yourself personally for the flattering terms in which you have conveyed to me the unanimous resolution of the Magistrates and common Council, I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

“ROBERT PEEL.”

This depression in the state of the trade of the country was greatly aggravated by the harvest of 1826 being very unsatisfactory. The heat and the drought were severe, and the crop of oats in many dry soils was so short that it had to be pulled out by the roots.

The operatives were so much delighted with the great exertions Provost Farquharson had made in their behalf, that at a meeting held in the Saracen's Head Inn on 30th September, 1827,—Dr. William Craig in the chair,—they presented to him three beautiful and chastely designed silver salvers, bearing the following inscription:—“To Robert Farquharson, Esq. of Allargue, Provost of Paisley, as an expression of public gratitude for exertions in behalf of the unemployed operatives during the late period of unexampled distress.”

The weaving trade in 1829 was again depressed, and funds were raised to assist those out of employment. The London manufacturing committee contributed £600.

In 1831 the Paisley weavers were again subjected to bad trade. A meeting of the subscribers to the relief fund in 1829 was held in November, 1831, and more money was collected by public subscriptions for relief of the unemployed. Upwards of £2000 was received in this way. By the beginning of 1832 trade had improved so much that the giving of relief was stopped.

Bad trade had now unfortunately become periodical in Paisley, and the intervals were very short. In 1837 depression of trade in Paisley existed to a very great degree. In April of that year there were of unemployed weavers 850, of dyers 60, and in addition there were many flower-lashers, draw-boys, pirn-winders, sewers, and others, in the same unfortunate condition. Many of the able-

bodied men were employed in breaking stones in the town's quarry, and in repairing the banks and towing-path connected with the river Cart. Several soup kitchens were also established in the town, and as many as eight hundred quarts of soup were distributed daily to those out of work. A considerable amount of money was collected by public subscriptions both in the town and county. Trade becoming better, payments to the unemployed were stopped in the middle of September, and the soup kitchens were closed at the end of that month. The money received at this time for the relief of the distress was as follows:—

General subscriptions and collections, ...	£5853	6	8
London subscriptions,	3345	12	11
Edinburgh do.,	2009	18	2
Loan per Mr. Hastie, M.P.,	2000	0	0
Work done in the quarry,	359	3	0
Interest,	13	7	11
	<hr/>		
	£13,581	8	8
Repaid Mr. Hastie, M.P.,	1500	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£12,081	8	8
	<hr/>		

This large amount of money was all expended. The sum lent by Mr. Hastie was understood to have been received by him from the Government Treasury.

We now approach the years 1841,2,3, when the weaving trade in Paisley and surrounding district was, from a variety of disturbing causes, in a worse condition than it had ever been. During this terrible period the sufferings and distress of the working classes, which were endured with the greatest patience, were without a parallel for duration and extent. In the summer of 1840 a number of unemployed weavers received assistance; but it was not till 22nd June, 1841, that serious and pressing applications were made to the Town Council for relief. They called a public meeting of the clergy, bankers, merchants, manufacturers, traders, and other inhabitants, to be held in the Court Hall on the 29th of that month, to devise means for the relief of the unemployed operatives of the town. The meeting was well attended; and being of opinion that a great deal of real distress existed among the operatives of Paisley and its neighbourhood, agreed that a committee should be appointed for the purpose of raising a fund with the view of providing for the relief of the unemployed. Thereafter the state of trade and manufactures gradually became worse, and the unemployed increased in numbers. To add to the sufferings in the community, several of the leading manufacturers were compelled to suspend payments, confidence was destroyed, and extensive bankruptcies followed. The Town Council also, whose borrowed money was repayable at a short notice, being unable to meet the demands made on them,

were under the necessity of suspending payments on 22nd December, 1841. The number receiving relief on 7th July, 1841, amounted to 2180; it rose to 14,791 on the 11th February, 1842; and gradually fell, with slight fluctuations, till 4th October, 1842, when the number was 5989; from this time it again increased until the 27th December, 1842, when it reached 11,885. The number then decreased until 7th March, 1843, when it was found to be 4442.

The allowances made to those on the relief list ranged from threepence to one penny per head per day.¹ During the period of the distress the destitute unemployed were supplied in two different ways — first by tickets or orders on the shopkeepers, and afterwards by orders on the stores belonging to the Relief Committee. Latterly a little money was also given.

It has been alleged by some parties that the contributions of the inhabitants of Paisley to the general fund were small. But it must be kept in view that all classes in the community suffered so much that they were unable to give more. Out of 112 manufacturing firms solvent and doing business in July, 1841, 67 failed; and out of 40 persons ranked in the Directory as merchants, 20 failed, and these were the leading men in town. The amount of the liabilities of those firms that failed was upwards of £750,000, and thus caused a great loss to those banks that did business in the town.

In consequence of a complaint made in the House of Commons by Mr. Wallace, M.P. for Greenock, in February, 1843, that the unemployed and destitute in Paisley were not receiving proper treatment, a committee of their number was appointed to inquire into the allegation and to report to the House. The witnesses examined before that committee were — William Henley Hyett, secretary of the London Manufacturers' Relief Committee; E. T. B. Twiselton, Assistant Poor-Law Commissioner for England; Robert Wilson, town-clerk, Paisley; Provost Henderson, Sheriff Campbell, Rev. Dr. Burns, Paisley; Rev. Mr. Bremner, and W. M. Alexander of Southbar. The result of the labours of this committee was a mass of interesting evidence relating to the distress in Paisley, along with a short report made by the committee.

To encourage the weaving trade in Paisley, the Queen in January, 1842, desired the Provost to forward to Her Majesty a number of Paisley shawls that she might make a selection from them. There were accordingly thirty shawls sent to Windsor Castle, at prices varying from £2 10s. to £12 10s., and Her Majesty retained eighteen of them belonging to eight different manufacturers, the value of which amounted to £157 5s. 6d.

Before the end of March trade had greatly revived, and the number of the unemployed had decreased so greatly that the stores were stopped. By the end of April the soup kitchens were also closed.

¹ See Report of Select Committee of the House of Commons for full particulars, p. 136.

The sources from which the Relief Committee obtained the funds they expended were as follows :—

London Manufacturers' Relief Committee, ...	£16,656	9	0
London Private Committee, ...	4,914	0	6
Edinburgh, ...	2,423	10	0
Glasgow, ...	1,322	5	0
India, ...	1,528	7	1
Greenock, ...	659	2	6
Ireland, ...	500	0	0
Paisley, ...	2,031	14	2
Various parts of Scotland, per Clergy, ...	4,670	0	0
County of Renfrew, ...	£4,240	19	5
Off for Villages, ...	1,477	16	9
		2,763	2 8
Various quarters, ...	6,910	5	0
Queen and other Patrons to County Subscriptions, ...	325	0	0
New York, ...	200	0	0
France, ...	52	5	9
Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, ...	71	11	8
Glasgow and Renfrewshire Charity Ball, ...	120	19	6
General Assembly of Church of Scotland, ...	399	10	0
Weaving Fund, the loss on which was ...	£1,371	16	0
Emigration Fund, ...	177	0	0
To Agricultural Labour Fund, ...	958	16	0
	£2,507	12	0
Say One-half for Paisley, ...	1,253	16	0
Implement Fund, ...	386	0	0
	£47,187	18	10

Before that quarter of the 19th century we are now considering had finished, a fifth depression of trade had occurred. In January, 1847, the number of unemployed, including their dependants, amounted to 5500, and in the same month in the following year the number was about 7000. Money was again raised by subscriptions and by contributions from the poor funds. The assistance granted for the support of the unemployed was chiefly by means of soup kitchens.

The general trade and business in the country for some years at this time was in an intensely depressed condition; and the entire failure of the potato crop in every direction increased the universal gloom in commercial affairs. Money became high in value—the discounts charged by the Bank of England rising as high as ten per cent., and the shares and stocks in public companies

fell immensely in value, causing the ruin of many who thought they were in affluent circumstances.¹

When the Abbey Bridge was built, as already stated, in 1763, the roadway was made so narrow that two vehicles could not pass one another, and there was no foot-path for passengers. On several occasions its insufficiency appears to have attracted the attention of the county road trustees. So far back as 1806 they had agreed to a resolution that some very necessary improvements should be made on the entrance to Paisley by the Abbey Bridge, but these were not carried out. At the annual meeting of the trustees in October, 1822, Mr. Maxwell of Pollok brought the matter under the consideration of the trustees, and stated that "when passing that way in his carriage he had frequently observed that the bridge was very narrow, and that foot passengers ran a considerable risk, particularly if the carriages were driving hard. Money expended on this improvement would be a benefit to the county." In the discussion that followed, the trustees, after declaring they were ready to give one-third of the expense incurred in making the necessary improvements, appointed a committee to examine the bridge and to report to a future meeting. Nothing definite, however, was done till three years afterwards, when the "Provost reported that, at a meeting of Quarter Sessions, held at Renfrew on the 25th instant, it had been agreed to contribute from the bridge money fund £200 towards widening the Seedhill Bridge, provided the community of Paisley and the inhabitants of the Newtown and suburbs should subscribe £400, and that the repairs be carried into effect within three years" (*Council Records*, 31st October, 1825). The Council, at a meeting held on the 15th of the following month, agreed to subscribe £100 towards this improvement. But it appears to have been a difficult matter to raise the remainder of the money required, for the widening of the bridge was not completed till 1829. The bridge was made nine feet wider, and this increased its width to twenty-three feet two inches over the walls. A narrow foot-path was made on the east side, the side on which the additional width was secured. Looking to the immense traffic that

¹ The following table shows the prices of stock in a few of the principal railways at the end of December for the five years ending 1849:—

	PAID.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.
York and North Midland,.....	£50	£102	£94	£72	£54	£17
York and Newcastle,	25	31	38	33	28	16
London and North-Western,.....	100	210	193	145	125	109
Glasgow and Ayrshire,	50	71	70	50	25	22
Lancashire and Yorkshire,.....	100	150	125	92	79	55
Caledonian,.....	100	104	98	72	42	20
Great Western,.....	100	168	141	110	90	58
Edinburgh and Glasgow,.....	100	136	132	86	76	56

passed along the bridge, the wonder is that the serious inconvenience and danger to passengers arising from its narrowness could have been submitted to so long.

In 1827 the Old Bridge was in a state of disrepair; and on the 12th October in that year the Provost stated to the Council, "that the Cross Bridge, commonly called the Old Bridge, was in very great disrepair and required immediate attention; and the meeting appointed application to be made to the meeting to be held at Renfrew on the 30th current of the Road Trustees, for an appropriation of part of the County Bridge money to repair the said bridge." In the meantime a proposition was made,—as stated at a Council meeting held on the 25th of that month,—that besides repairing the bridge, it should also be widened by projecting the foot-path on the north side, and it was expected that money would be raised by public subscription to pay part of the expense. The Town Council accordingly made application to the County Trustees, who granted £56 13s. 4d. towards the cost of the repairs. The Council agreed to pay other £20, and £50 was raised by subscription. On 27th May, 1828, the Council ordered specifications to be prepared for the work, and employed Mr. James Gillespie, slater, to point the mason work of the bridge with arden lime. When the offers were opened on 25th June, 1828, that of Mr. James Donaldson at £2 5s. per lineal yard, with an allowance of £7 for old materials, was accepted, being the lowest. In 1832 the late Mr. James Dunn of Greenhill, took down the house at the north-east end of the bridge, and the opportunity was embraced of widening the street there. Towards this improvement the Council contributed £30.

The retaining wall at the north-west end of the Sneddon Bridge gave way in 1840, and was rebuilt at an expense of £227 18s. 3d. The County Road Trustees on being applied to paid one-third part of that sum; and the Town Council and Newtown Road Trustees contributed the balance, in the proportion of the sums which they received for statute labour money.

The troops of the Renfrewshire Yeomanry Cavalry formed, as already mentioned, in the period of disaffection and rioting in 1820, were not disbanded like the rifle corps, when these troublous times had ended. The head quarters of these troops were generally in Paisley, and they continued to meet for drill during many years. On 6th October, 1826, this yeomanry force, after they had been engaged for eight days at drill, were reviewed by Major Campbell, in the presence of many spectators, in a field at Hawkhead farm, adjoining the Canal. They consisted of four troops and mustered two hundred strong. When the review was finished horse-racing commenced; and the plan always adopted for finding out the swiftest horse was by each of the four troops trying among themselves, and the four victors in this contest afterwards running, when the first horse was declared the winner of the race. In this

concluding trial of speed the victory was won by Mr. Galloway, who gave the stakes to the unemployed relief fund. The corps afterwards dined in the Renfrewshire Tontine,—Sir M. S. Stewart in the chair. The next review took place on 8th August, 1827, in a field near to Barnsford Bridge. Archibald Campbell, Esq. of Blythwood, in his uniform as lord-lieutenant of the county, was present as inspecting officer; and Sir M. S. Stewart, major commandant, was, in his absence, represented by his brother, Captain Houston Stewart. The force mustered about 240 strong, and looked extremely well in their new clothing. The heavy helmets formerly worn were superseded by caps of a more becoming pattern. There were many superior horses on the field; and the readiness with which, in so short a period of drill, the men performed the various evolutions, was favourably commented on by those in command and by the numerous spectators assembled. At the termination of the review there was the usual horse-racing. On returning to Paisley many of the yeomen dined in the Renfrewshire Tontine,—Captain Houston Stewart occupying the chair.

On 28th January, 1828, the gallant and chivalrous officers of the first or Paisley troop gave a splendid ball in the Renfrewshire Tontine. Besides the members of the troop, there were both officers and men from the other troops. According to the local newspaper, then edited by Mr. William Motherwell, the assembly must have been highly successful, for it stated — “The ball-room was crowded, and there could not be fewer than 250 individuals present. Dancing commenced about eight, and continued till four in the morning. With truth can we say that we never witnessed a more animating and joyous scene, and never was a ball conducted more perfectly to the satisfaction of all as that on Tuesday night. The whole evening was one unceasing round of festive and hearty enjoyment—trooper and civilian—lady and rustic maiden, in holiday attire, mingling in the giddy mazes of the dance without distinction and in perfect harmony.” In this year the review, after the usual days of drilling, took place on 9th August, on the same field as in the previous year. There was likewise the customary racing; and the fifth or concluding race was won in dashing style by Mr. Lindsay, of the Kilbarchan troop. Upwards of seventy yeomen dined in the afternoon in the Tontine Inn,—Sir M. S. Stewart in the chair. On the 20th November in that year, the privates in the first troop gave a ball in honour of their officers, to show the kindly feeling of the troopers towards them. About 160 were present.

In August, 1829, Sir M. S. Stewart, the major-commandant, issued orders for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the corps, recommending the different troops to have occasional drilling previous to mustering for permanent duty. This was attended to with commendable zeal. On 27th September, the Yeomanry Cavalry, under the command of Sir M. S. Stewart, marched into quarters for the usual period of training and exercise. The muster

of the regiment that year was considerably above 200 ; and it was stated in the public prints at the time that a finer body of men or better horses and more perfect equipment had never been reviewed in any yeomanry corps in Scotland. The troopers were reviewed on the 3rd October in a field abounding in many picturesque beauties on the side of the river at Abbots Inch.¹ The attendance of spectators was very considerable. A. C. Campbell, Esq. of Blythswood, Earl Cathcart, Sir Archibald Campbell of Succoth, and other gentlemen, were present. Major Graham of the 12th Royal Lancers was the inspecting officer, and the yeomen in performing their exercises must have given unbounded satisfaction, judging from what was afterwards stated. After the review the troops were drawn up in a hollow square, and Earl Cathcart, after addressing them in flattering terms, concluded by saying — “Yeomen of Renfrewshire, you have charged to-day like heroes. With such as you at my back the conquest of the world were easy.” Sir M. S. Stewart also addressed the troops at some length, and said — “You have earned distinguished honours, but I can add nothing to the warm terms in which Lord Cathcart, the first cavalry officer in the kingdom, has addressed you. I thank you for the personal sacrifices I know many of you have made in coming to do duty at this season of the year. You have mustered around the banner of your Sovereign when that banner called you to the field, with a readiness creditable to your own loyalty and truly flattering to me as your officer. It is the proudest feeling of my heart that I have at this moment clustered around me the flower of the yeomen of Renfrewshire, and that they have most emphatically done their duty.” Then followed the troop races, which excited marked interest ; and the final tie (or heat) was gained by Mr. John Speirs. In the afternoon about 130 gentlemen dined in the Renfrewshire Tontine — Sir M. S. Stewart in the chair. The Yeomanry in the following year (1830) were on permanent duty at Greenock for eight days, and the review was held in a field at Finnart.

The officers of the Paisley troops gave a ball on 31st January, 1831, in the Renfrewshire Tontine, and there were about 200 present. In 1832 the different troops were drilled at Mearns. On 27th October, 1833, the Yeomanry went on duty for eight days, at the end of which they were reviewed by Major Hill of the 7th Hussars, who expressed himself satisfied with their equipments and manœuvring. After the customary races, a number dined in the Tontine, under the presidency of Captain Houston Stewart, R.N.

¹ Jamieson states in his dictionary that *Inshe* and *Insh* in Gaelic generally mean an island of a small size. According to the map of the river Cart supplied by Robert Whitworth along with his report in 1786, already noticed, upon the improvement of its navigation, two islands are shown at this place. One of these at least must have been appropriated in some way by the Abbots of the Monastery, and hence its name. There were five inshes or islands in the river Clyde between Renfrew and Glasgow, according to Blean's map of 1654. There are none now, but their respective names were — Water Inch, Whyt Inch, Bush Inch (or Packman's Isle), King's Inch, and Sand Inch.

On 6th December in that year the privates of the first troop gave a ball in the Renfrewshire Tontine in honour of their officers. The company assembled exceeded 300. In August, 1834, the first troop assembled for eight days' drill under Captain Farquharson. On 23rd January, 1835, a cavalry ball took place, under the auspices of the officers of the first troop, in the Tontine assembly-room. The troopers were all in full uniform with the exception of spurs. There were present, besides the officers of the 72nd Regiment, Sir M. S. Stewart, P. M. Stewart, M.P., Sheriff Dunlop, and the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, Mr. Campbell of Blythswood. In August, 1836, the Yeomanry Cavalry were on duty at Greenock for eight days.

In 1838 the Government, in consequence of the continued peace enjoyed by the country, resolved to dispense with the services of the Renfrewshire Yeomanry Cavalry. They were finally disbanded on 31st March in that year; and on the previous evening the officers gave a grand ball in the Tontine Assembly Rooms.¹ The warm-hearted, upright, and generous Captain Farquharson, of the first troop, was a great favourite with the members, and they entertained him at dinner on the 4th June in that year, in the Saracen's Head Inn, in testimony of their respect and esteem for him, with whom they had been so long associated.

The petitions presented to Parliament by the Town Council in this period were numerous, and many of them related to subjects of very great importance. They were as follows :—

On 25th February, 1826, they petitioned Parliament against the bill for prohibiting the issue of small notes by bankers. On 26th January, 1827, they petitioned both Houses of Parliament to revise the Corn Laws in such a way as to be beneficial to the commercial interests of this country; while at the same time the agricultural interests would be protected. On 27th April, 1829, they petitioned Parliament in favour of a bill for making a railway from the coal fields of the upper parts of Lanarkshire to communicate with the western markets, by the Garnkirk and Glasgow Railway, Monkland Canal, and other communications. On 22nd January, 1830, they petitioned in favour of a bill to connect Lanarkshire coal fields with the Clyde, at the Broomielaw, by means of a railway. On 30th March, 1830, they petitioned against the renewal of the charter to the East India Company. On 16th December, 1830, they petitioned in favour of Parliamentary reform. On 15th March, 1831, they petitioned in favour of the plan of Parliamentary reform proposed by Government. On 24th June, 1834, they petitioned against the Law of Entail. On 22nd July, 1835, they petitioned in favour of a measure to regulate the wages of hand-loom weavers. On 26th April, 1836, they petitioned against the duty on Fire Insurance. On 9th May, 1837, they petitioned against the mode of assessment

¹ In Scotland only two corps were retained at this time,—the Lanarkshire and Ayrshire,—all the rest being disbanded.

proposed in the Prisons Bill. On 16th May, 1837, they petitioned the Government to grant a sum for the support of the unemployed artisans. On 30th May, 1837, they petitioned Parliament for the abolition of the punishment of death in all cases except murder. On 23rd May, 1838, they petitioned Parliament in favour of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Bill. On 4th April, 1838, they again petitioned Parliament against the proposed mode of levying the rates in the new Prisons Bill. On 29th May, 1838, they petitioned Parliament in favour of a reduced and uniform rate of postage. On 24th July, 1838, they, for the third time, petitioned Parliament against the Prisons Bill, as regards the proposed mode of assessment and the board of management. On 18th March, 1839, they also petitioned Parliament against the Prisons Bill. On 29th March, 1839, they petitioned Parliament in favour of a uniform penny post. On 21st January, 1840, they petitioned the Queen for a commutation of the sentence of death passed upon John Frost, Zephaniah Williams, and William Jones, lately found guilty of high treason in South Wales. On 21st January, 1840, they petitioned Parliament against the Clyde Navigation Bill, in so far as it was intended to increase the dues on vessels coming to Paisley and navigating the lower stages of the river. On 21st December, 1841, they petitioned the Government in favour of the members of several emigration societies in Paisley having free passages to Canada. On 18th February, 1845, they petitioned Parliament against the bill relating to the Glasgow Bridges. On 10th February, 1846, they petitioned Parliament in favour of Sir Robert Peel's measures relating to the abolition of the Corn Laws, &c.¹ On 20th May they petitioned Parliament against the bill for the amalgamation of the Glasgow and Paisley Canal and the Glasgow and Ayr Railway. On 6th June, 1848, they petitioned Parliament in favour of a reform in the existing banking laws. On 12th April, 1848, they petitioned Parliament in favour of granting sites for churches to all non-conformists. On 16th June, 1848, they petitioned Parliament in favour of an extension of the elective franchise, vote by ballot, electoral districts more equally distributed, and the restoration of the duration of Parliament to a period not exceeding three years. On 4th September, 1849, they petitioned Parliament for the abolition of the Convention of Royal Burghs. On 9th October, 1849, they agreed to delay the petition for the abolition of the Convention of Royal Burghs.

¹ On 11th December, 1837, a public meeting was held in the Old Low Church, which agreed to petition both houses of Parliament for a repeal of the Corn and Provision Laws. A public meeting was also held on 9th January, 1840,—Provost Bisset presiding,—which agreed to petition Parliament for a speedy and total repeal of the Corn Laws. This meeting also resolved to form an anti-corn law association, and to send two delegates to represent the town at the great meeting of the Anti-Corn Law League, to be held in Manchester at that time. The association then formed continued till the Corn Laws were repealed, and took an energetic and intelligent part in helping to bring about that very important event.

The Council forwarded addresses to the Sovereign on the following subjects :—On 24th January, 1827, an address of condolence to His Majesty on the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of York and Albany. On 3rd July, 1832, an address to the King in relation to the late attack upon His Majesty. On 3rd December, 1834, an address declaring regret at the sudden and unexpected change which had taken place in your Majesty's Councils. "We are particularly sorry that your Majesty should have again called into office the avowed and uncompromising opponents of those measures of Reform which the united voice of the whole country declared necessary for its peace and prosperity." (King William IV. was born 21st August, 1765, and died 20th June, 1837.) On 16th June, 1840, an address to the Queen expressing indignation at the late treasonable attempt upon Her Majesty's life, and congratulating Her Majesty upon her happy preservation. On 2nd December, 1840, an address of congratulation to Queen Victoria on the auspicious event of the birth of the Princess-Royal. On 11th November, 1841, an address to the Queen and Prince Albert on the occasion of the birth of the Prince of Wales. On 21st December, 1841, an address to the Queen asking again for pardon to Frost, Williams, and Jones. On 28th August, an address to the Queen on the occasion of Her Majesty's visit to Scotland. On 16th May, 1843, an address of condolence to the Queen on the death of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex; and also an address of congratulation on the birth of another princess. On 8th October, 1844, an address to the Queen congratulating Her Majesty and Her Royal Consort on their safe arrival at home from their late gracious visit to Scotland. On 13th August, 1847, an address to the Queen on the occasion of her visit to Scotland by the river Clyde.

In this period the following gentlemen were created honorary burgesses by the Town Council :—

"On 6th October, 1826, Sir M. S. Stewart, of Greenock and Blackhall, Bart., major-commandant of the Renfrewshire Yeomanry Cavalry, from the very high consideration of his character as a gentleman; from recollection of the friendship he has so actively and ardently evinced for the welfare of the burgh; and from the repeated acts of benevolence so very liberally, handsomely, and seasonably manifested by him on behalf of the unemployed operatives in these times of unparalleled depression and distress."

On 1st February, 1831, the Council, "in consideration not only of his distinguished literary attainments, but of his public and private virtues, created John Wilson, Esq., Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, an honorary burgess of the burgh of Paisley, his native town, with the usual privileges."

On 10th December, 1832, "the Council unanimously created Sir John Maxwell of Pollok, Bart., and John M'Kerrell, Esq. of Hillhouse, burgesses, being the two first candidates for the representation of Paisley in the British Parliament."

28th October, 1834.—An address was sent to the Right Hon. the Earl of Durham “expressing gratitude in particular for the eminent share taken by your lordship in preparing the Reform Bills, measures which, we trust, will yet lead to the most beneficial results as regards the happiness and prosperity of the country.”

9th August, 1836.—A motion by a member of Council that the freedom of the town be conferred upon Thomas Campbell, Esq., author of “The Pleasures of Hope,” who is to visit this place in a few days, was negatived.

1st February, 1842.—“The Council unanimously created and admitted the Right Hon. James Carr Boyle, Viscount Kelburne, an honorary burgess and freeman of the burgh, as a token of the grateful sense which they and the community entertain of his lordship’s exertions to obtain aid for the suffering operatives of the burgh in their present distressed condition, and of his own munificent contributions for their relief.”

On 22nd January, 1844, “the Council unanimously created and admitted Robert Wallace of Kelly, M.P. for Greenock, an honorary burgess and freeman of the burgh, as a token of the grateful sense which they and the community entertained of his great exertions in obtaining the Penny Postage, a measure so beneficial to all classes in the country.”

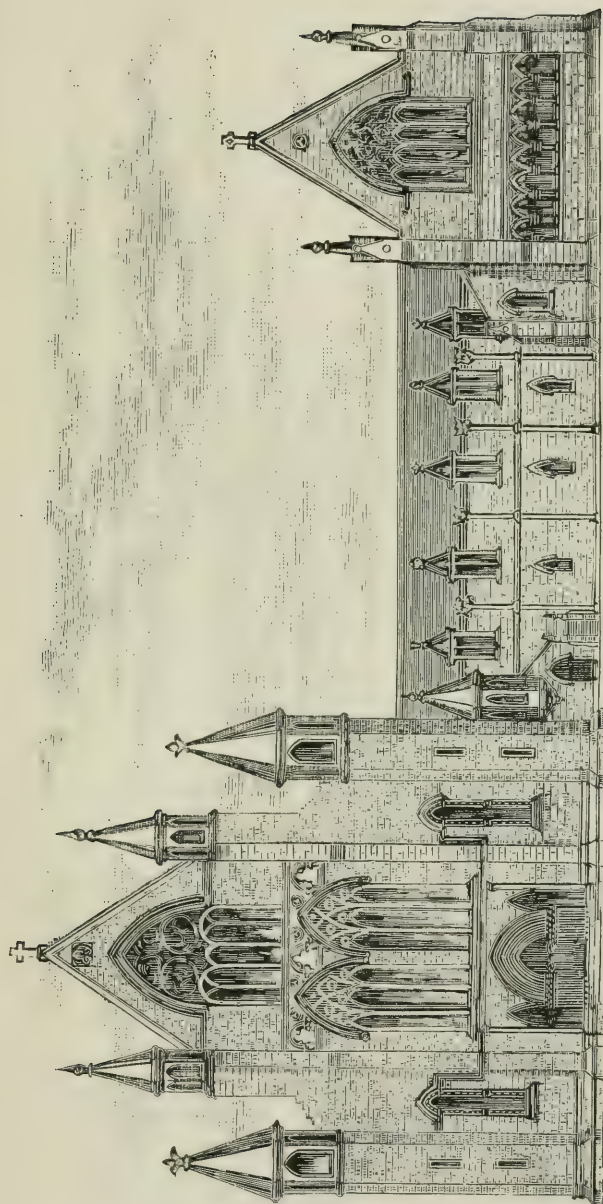
On 7th February, 1846, “the Council unanimously created and admitted their eminent townsman, John Henning, Esq., London, an honorary burgess and freeman of the burgh, in token of the high sense the community entertained of his private worth and distinguished talents as an artist.”

In June, 1827, when the old Burgher Meeting-house in the Abbey Close was taken down to make way for a new church to be erected in its place, a grand view was obtained from the foot of Causeyside of the fine proportions of the lofty west gable of the Abbey. The idea immediately occurred to many that the new church should, if possible, be erected in another place, that this prospect might thereby be permanently secured. On 26th June in that year the Provost brought the matter under the notice of the Council, and stated that “a very strong feeling appeared to exist among the public that the view if possible be preserved, which the managers of the congregation, he understood, were inclined to gratify provided a convenient site could be procured elsewhere for their new church. To accomplish this end, a subscription had been proposed, and he had brought this subject before them that they might have an opportunity of considering how far and in what way they could assist in attaining this object.” But they came at that time to no specific resolution. Afterwards, at a public meeting called by the Provost, subscriptions were commenced to raise money, and a committee was appointed to treat with the Burgher congregation for a change of site, and to adopt such additional measures as might be deemed necessary to effect the desired object. The advances of the com-

mittee were met with much cordiality, and a temporary stop was put to the proceedings of the builder. At a meeting of Council held on 3rd July, they unanimously voted the handsome grant of £31 10s. in aid of the general subscription for procuring a new site for the Abbey Close Church, and thereby preserving the view now laid open of the west end of the Abbey Church, on condition that the enclosing wall on the line of the street be made a parapet with a rail like that enclosing the area at the west end of the Abbey Church. The committee offered the Abbey Close congregation a choice of three several steadings or £400 in cash, with the retention of the old ground as a place of sepulture, with a pledge to ornament it by a wall and railing. The managers of the congregation exhibited in the different meetings on the subject every disposition to comply with the wish of the public so far as might be practicable; but all the overtures made them were rejected by a vote of the congregation. It was afterwards explained on behalf of the congregation that in the offer of £400 made to the managers of the congregation, it was understood that they (the congregation) should be at the expense of enclosing the ground; and that at the meeting of the congregation called to decide upon the various proposals, it was calculated by them that a loss of about £300 would have been incurred by a change of site.

When Mr. Salmon, architect, was engaged in the renovation of the Abbey in 1860, he in addition to preparing a view of the Abbey as it would be when completed by the Abbots, and given in the frontispiece of vol. i. of this work, also prepared a drawing of the architectural elevation of the west façade of the edifice as it would be seen from the south end of Saint Mirren Street. We give a view of this extremely beautiful and imposing structure. Both of these views appeared in the *Builder* of 9th May, 1863.

In December, 1828, a great and deep sensation of horror was created in the town by the proceedings of the spoliators of the church-yards, or resurrectionists as they were then termed. On the morning of the 8th of that month, it was discovered that they had been at work during the previous night in the burial-ground attached to the United Presbyterian Church, Oakshaw Street. A grave was found to have been opened, and the body of Helen Duncan, a young woman of about twenty-three years of age, who had died of consumption, and was buried four days previously, had been taken away. The grave was left only half-filled up, and the grave clothes were not even hidden from sight. These circumstances led to the discovery of the unhallowed work that had been perpetrated. The distressing intelligence having been conveyed to the father of the young woman, he went to Glasgow, but his search there for the body proved fruitless. On returning home in the evening, a young man, residing in Back Sneddon Street, communicated some circumstances of a suspicious nature, which led him to believe that the body had been deposited in a garret adjoining his



0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 FEET

THE CHURCH.

DORMITORIES.

REFECTORY.

ARCHITECTURAL ELEVATION OF THE WEST FACADE OF TAISLEY ABBEY RESTORED.

house about three o'clock in the morning. Acting on this information the father and uncle of the girl proceeded to the spot, and while one remained as a watch the other went to the police office. The police officers immediately set out for the premises, and on searching the garret found the body tied up in a sack. It was brought down and identified by the relatives — their feelings, as might be expected, were most acute; but by the prudent management of the captain of police they were prevented from giving way to any violent ebullition calculated to stir up popular clamour. The body was first conveyed to the police office, then at midnight removed to the vestry of the church at the burying-ground, and next day interred. The police had not left the premises more than half-an-hour, when two strangers, muffled in cloaks, went up to the garret; and having borrowed a candle from a woman in a neighbouring house, were heard rummaging through it; and one was overheard saying — “It is off, let us begone.” In going away they studiously concealed their faces from observation; and no men being there at the time, the women, though full of suspicions that they were concerned in the foul transaction, did not oppose their flight. The garret, as has been described, was a lumber-room, the door of which was quite insecure, and could be opened at will by any one. The whole matter was judicially inquired into, but the body-snatchers were never discovered.

While the feelings of the inhabitants were thus aroused against those connected with this sacrilegious action, they were still further shocked by the publication, during this month, of the foul deeds committed by Burke and Hare in Edinburgh. Although Burke was only tried and condemned for killing one person, yet it was known, and confessed by himself afterwards, that he and Hare had, within a year or two, murdered seventeen people, and sold their bodies to the anatomists. The panic caused by these deeds and those of the grave violators, was universal. The young were unwilling to walk alone at night under the fear that the body-snatchers would put a plaster on their mouth and carry them off to the dissecting-room. At a private meeting of a few persons to consider what should be done in the circumstances, they resolved to call a public meeting of the inhabitants; and the advertisement, dated 17th January, 1829, calling the meeting, was as follows:—

“Horrid Murder.”—A meeting will take place on Monday evening, in the Burgher Meeting-House, George Street, at seven o'clock, to deliberate on the best mode of expressing their sentiments on the unparalleled murders which have partially been brought to light in the City of Edinburgh, and to consider upon other matters connected with that subject. Those who feel interested in a full disclosure of those atrocities, are respectfully invited to attend. By order of the committee. James Orr, chairman. N.B. — A collection will be made at the door.”

The meeting was numerously attended; and resolved to petition

the King on the subject of the late murders in Edinburgh, to the effect that, without respect of persons, every means should be used to bring the authors and abettors of such atrocious deeds to condign punishment. Resolutions were also passed relating to the watching at night of all the burying-grounds in the town, and a large committee was appointed to carry out the views of the meeting. The abettors here referred to were the doctors who bought the subjects. Seven days afterwards another public meeting was held, to which the committee formerly appointed reported as to the best mode of preventing the violation of the sepulchres of the dead. They were of opinion that the purchasing of a sufficient number of mort-safes, corresponding to the mortality in the town, would be too expensive; and that the best method for protecting the dead would be by the nightly watching of the different burying-grounds. This recommendation was adopted, and committees were appointed to call meetings in the different districts of the town to carry the resolution of the meeting into effect. The inhabitants entered into the scheme of establishing a society for the protection of the dead with the greatest spirit and unanimity. The entry-money for each member was fixed at sixpence, and the quarterly payments one penny. A commodious and comfortable wooden box, with a grate for a fire in it when required, was placed in each burying-ground, and every member took his turn of watching. The enthusiasm was so great that before a year had passed there were, including females, about seven thousand members. At the half-yearly meeting of the society held in April, 1830, the funds were found to be in a good condition,—the income for the half-year being £58 9s. 1d., and the expenditure £48 4s. 6d. The principal expenditure was the officers' wages, amounting to £12 for the half-year, and about £10 for coals and fire-wood for the watch-boxes. The property of the society, which consisted mostly of the boxes for the night watchers, was valued at £80.

On the night of 10th February, 1831, the church-yard of Renfrew was entered by grave-despoilers, who succeeded in disinterring the body of Mrs. Hugh Glen, late wife of the postmaster. She had been interred about a month. This event, so afflicting to the husband and to her relations, caused a great sensation in the Royal Burgh, as well as in the neighbouring towns, and crowds of people congregated to see the empty coffin. The sepulchre-robbers left the grave quite open and the dead-clothes scattered about. At this time a young lad, who was drowned in Lounsedale dam, was interred in the West Relief Church-yard. A report was very widely circulated that the body had been removed. The general committee of the Paisley Society for Protecting the Dead, not believing this, had the grave opened up and satisfied the relatives of the young man that the grave had not been disturbed. These circumstances tended much to show to the inhabitants the advantages of this society, and to satisfy them that there were no spoliations of graves in the burying-grounds of Paisley. At the half-yearly

meeting of the society held in November, 1832, the income of the previous half-year was stated to be £38 16s. 7d., and the expenditure £35 1s. 9d. It was mentioned at this meeting that the members continued to turn out regularly to the watch at the different churchyards, and that the only difficulty experienced was in procuring members to go about regularly among the members to collect the quarterly subscriptions.

An act was passed by the legislature relating to the providing of bodies for anatomical examination ; and after it had been some time in operation, the churchyards ceased to be disturbed by the grave-despoilers, and the minds of the people were set at rest on this distressing question. The members of the society accordingly became gradually less punctual in their attendance at the night watchings ; and on 1st August, 1836, a meeting of the members was held in the Old Low Church for the purpose of considering the propriety of dissolving the society. The clerk reported to the meeting that there was a great falling off in the membership in all the districts except Causeyside, for the number had gradually dwindled down to under three thousand ; that notwithstanding the great exertions of the managers, funds could not be procured to meet the necessary expenditure, and that the society was about £8 in debt. The meeting agreed, by a large majority, that the operations of the society should, in the meantime, be suspended ; and that anyone having relations who died should, if they wished, have the use of the boxes in the burying-grounds for the purpose of watching.

St. James Day Fair commenced on Thursday, 11th August, 1825, with the usual festivities and popular amusements of equestrians, tumblers, fiddlers, fire-eaters, jugglers, &c. But the principal attraction as formerly was the races, which took place on Friday. At the first race for the "Bells," at four o'clock, only two horses started — Alexander Barr of Wishaw's chestnut mare (rider, green coat and red cap) ; and Ronald Brown's pony, Rory Bean (rider, yellow sleeves and black cap). Alexander Barr won easily. The after-shots were at seven o'clock — Alexander Barr of Wishaw's brown mare, Glasgow Bet (rider, green livery and green cap), and Rory Bean. This race was much better contested.

At this and the other Paisley fairs a curious custom prevailed of having bonfires or tawnles. There are none of these observances at the present day, but they were the relics of a time immemorial. These bonfires were lighted on small artificial mounds formed in the river above the Old Bridge. The youths of the town for weeks previous to every recurring fair solicited money from anyone passing along the streets to defray the expense connected with these bonfires. With the money obtained in this way they bought coals, wood, and old barrels ; and on the Wednesday night before the Thursday Fair the tawnles were kindled. It was a pleasing sight to see the merry youths on these islets dancing round the blazing fires which had taken them weeks to prepare. The ancient Druids had

four great festivals yearly at which great fires were lighted—in February, May, August, and November—and it is believed that these tawnles on the nights prior to the fairs were a relique of Druidical worship.

In 1827 the race-course by Underwood, as already described, was abandoned; and the new course adopted was the road round the present course. It was an improvement upon the former one, but still in many places it was bounded by some deep ditches. The St. James Race took place for the "Bells" or £2 2s. on the 10th August in this year. Four horses started; and Mr. Aitken's bay mare from Irvine won the "Bells." Mr. William Howie's bay mare won the second prize, 10s. 6d. The after-race, which started at seven o'clock, was won by Mr. Howie's mare which had run in the former race. At both races there was a very great concourse of people. No accidents occurred. On the following day (Saturday) the first race, for a purse of £5 5s., was run in heats, and was gained by Mr. Aitken's bay mare, Spitfire. Three horses started. In the first heat Mr. Mullen's bay gelding fell near the distance-post. From the fact that the Saturday races were not generally known, the attendance was not so great as on the previous day. As the races had given so much satisfaction at this time, the Provost and Magistrates gave permission for more races being run on the 23rd of the same month, being the colt market day in Paisley. The races commenced on that day at half-past twelve. The first race was for a silver cup or £10 10s. Four horses started, and the race was won by Spitfire, belonging to Mr. Aitken. The second in this race received thirty shillings, and the third ten shillings. The second race began at half-past five o'clock, and five horses started. The race was won by Mr. Dick's Creeping Kate, which secured £5; Mr. Baine's Lucky was second, and £1 was awarded. Mr. Morrison's horse, Orphan, broke his leg, and in consequence of this accident he got £2. The weather was remarkably fine; and though a great multitude of people thronged the ground not a single casualty occurred. The corners of the new race-course were rather sharp, and the Council, on an application from those promoting the races, allowed them on 22nd July, 1828, "to be improved by taking as much ground, not exceeding two or three falls, as may be necessary to round two of the turns." The intimation relating to the races in August, 1828, was as follows:—

"Horse Racing.—Paisley New Course.—Subscription-purses for £5 to £20 will be run in heats over the new course (which has been formed at very considerable expense) on Friday, 15th, and Saturday, 16th August. The conditions will be seen in the hands of Mr. Fraser, Saracen's Head Inn. The horses to be run must be booked on the day preceding the race. N.B.—The race for the 'Silver Bells' and an after-race by the beat horses will take place on Friday as usual."

For the first race at twelve o'clock (prize, £10 10s.) six horses started, and the first heat was won by Mr. William Smith's brown

horse, Stag ; but the next two heats were won by the Dalry Maid, owned by Mr. Hugh Kelly of Dalry. For the "Silver Bells" at four o'clock five horses started, and they were won by Mr. Barr of Wishaw, this being the tenth year he carried them off. At the after-shots at six o'clock two horses started, and the race was won by Mr. Smith's horse, Win-if-you-Can. Numerous scaffolds and mounds were erected along the course to afford every opportunity for seeing the sport to pedestrians, while horsemen and equipages, of which there was a great display, found in another quarter suitable accommodation. There were also numerous booths and tents scattered over the ground for providing refreshments. The Magistrates in a body attended on the occasion, and occupied a stand tastefully decorated in a position which commanded a view of the whole course. The crowds which attended were immense, being estimated at from ten to fifteen thousand. The first race on the following day (Saturday) was at twelve o'clock, for a purse of twenty sovereigns. Four horses started, and that race was won by Mr. Kelly's Dalry Maid. The five o'clock race was for a purse of ten sovereigns, and Mr. Smith's horse, Stag, was the winner. The stewards gave £2 2s. for a race run immediately after the twenty-sovereign race, and it was won by Mr. Barr's mare. Three horses started. The stewards also gave three sovereigns for a race after the one for ten sovereigns. Two horses started, and Mr. Smith's horse was the winner. A foot-race was run for 15s. to the winner and 5s. to the second. Seven started, and the race afforded great amusement. The weather was very fine, and the number of people at the race was very great, being computed at from 25,000 to 30,000.

The races on Friday, 14th August, 1829, were well attended, although the weather was not favourable. Seven horses started for the race for ten sovereigns at twelve o'clock. Mr. Brown's Candour was the winner. On starting one of the horses came in contact with a boy crossing the course, and falling broke its neck and died instantly. The boy and the rider escaped unhurt. The "Silver Bells" at four o'clock were won by Mr. M'Fadyen's Tally-ho. Five horses started in the race. For several days previous to the races a number of horses were exercising on the race-course, and one morning a favourite Irish horse, from which great things were expected, while taking its airing stumbled and dislocated its shoulder. The following morning another horse somewhat vicious, shying at some object, threw its rider over its head into a ditch and scampered off full speed along the road. The races of the following day far exceeded those of Friday, and the number present could not be estimated at less than from fifteen thousand to twenty thousand. Five horses started in the race for ten sovereigns at twelve o'clock. At four o'clock the "Silver Bells" were won by Mr. Lindsay's Bit-of-Tartan. Three horses started ; and at six o'clock three horses started. The races advertised to take place at St. James Day Fair in August, 1830, were as follows :—

*" Paisley St. James Day Races.—*The following races will take

place on the new course on Friday the 13th and Saturday the 14th of August, 1830:—*Friday, 13th*, twelve o'clock noon: Race for ten sovereigns, to be run in heats; second horse in winning heat, one sovereign. Four o'clock: The annual race for the 'Silver Bells,' given by the Town of Paisley. Six o'clock: The after-shots, by the best horses in the 'Silver Bells' race, for a purse of gold. *Saturday, 14th*, twelve o'clock noon: Race for ten sovereigns, to be run for in heats; second horse in winning heat, one sovereign. Five o'clock: Race for the best horses in the above race for five sovereigns, to be run in heats; second horse in winning heat, if three horses start, one sovereign. Horses to run on Friday must be booked at Mr. Fraser's, Saracen's Head Inn, on Thursday; and those to run on Saturday must be booked on Friday, by eight o'clock p.m. both days, or be subjected to double booking-money. Mr. Fraser will show the articles. N.B.—By order of the Magistrates, no tents, scaffolds, or other erections will be allowed in the parks belonging to the community within the race ground; nor carts, carriages, or any other obstructions upon the course."

Fewer horses entered for these different races, and the spectators were not so numerous as in the two previous years; but everything went off quietly, and there were no accidents.¹

The advertisement regarding the races to take place at St. James Day Fair on 13th and 14th August, 1831, was precisely the same as the one for the previous year. As for the races themselves, there was not any new feature connected with them.

¹ Andrew Kinloch, a jockey, better known by the name of "Friday," rode at these races, and the following letter of his relating to them appeared in the *Paisley Advertiser* of the 21st of that month:—

"*The Catastrophe of the Paisley Races.* — Mr. Editor,—On Monday last, through the course of the day, I was attacked by all the ignoramuses of Seestu, and upbraided for being bribed and behaving like a thief on Friday and Saturday Fair days; but how they came to say this I know not, but this I can say, that I did all in my power to win the different races, and took the turns of the course like a compass. In doing so I tore my breeches and cut my leg severely. I was also struck to the effusion of my blood by a cowardly person, in consequence of his having been told by the owner of the mare I rode that I had been bribed. All I can say to the said owner is, that he knows as much about horse-racing as a cow. I have now been a rider at horse-races upwards of ten years, and in that time I have rode 250 races, gained 195, lost 55, won £450; and yet to be called a thief I think is very unhandsome and ungentlemanlike. I defy any man, woman, or child to say, or even to hint, that I ever in my life was bribed, took a bribe, or asked a bribe; nor never will as long as my name is Friday. Let every rogue shake his own paw, and it will be a New-Year-Day morning about the head of Cotton Street; 'evil doers are evil thinkers,' and that is the case with him who has attempted to injure me in my feelings and reputation. I have also been attacked by a number of the daft, delirious, demented, and silly-minded idiots, who said that I am a rascal; their conscience is glee'd that said so. The only proof that they have against me is, that when I took the turn at the starting-post I jockeyed the Doctor off the road. In so doing I lost my switch; and the mare having run every race on Friday and Saturday, and on account of this she had no speed; and when all is put together, I think it will be an excuse for him (the Doctor) passing me.—I am, Sir, with much respect, a true-hearted sportsman, FRIDAY."

In 1832, when the cholera disease was prevalent in this town, the Town Council, by the desire of the Board of Health, agreed "that the whole races be prohibited at the ensuing fair, that no show exhibitions be allowed to enter the town, and that every other lawful means be resorted to in order to remove or prevent the causes of dissipation" (*Council Records*, 26th July, 1832). These resolutions were widely advertised and strictly carried out.

For the races of Friday and Saturday, the 9th and 10th August, 1833, increased sums were offered to the winners. For the race at twelve o'clock on Friday the sum was raised from ten to twenty sovereigns, and for the race at the same hour on Saturday fifteen instead of ten sovereigns were given. Great preparations were made for these races. The number of tents at the race-course exceeded any previously seen, there having been about seventy of them. The turn-out of race-horses was numerous, and the contests were regarded as good. Five horses started in the race at twelve o'clock, and it was won by Mr. Gray's Border Lass. Four horses ran for the "Silver Bells," and the winner was Mr. Morrison's Falkirk Maid. The horse ridden by Friday, who boasted in his letter that he "took the turns in the course like a compass," in taking one of the turns too sharply came in contact with the fence, and received rather a serious injury. A man was also knocked down and cut about the face, but not severely. On Saturday the racing horses were not so numerous; but the weather was favourable, and the attendance of visitors at the course greater than it had been for several years.¹

The committee of gentlemen who took charge of the races at this time were desirous of still further improving the race-course. They were satisfied from what had transpired that, if this were done, a much better class of horses would be brought forward. In March, 1834, they applied to the Council to lease ground to them within the course, their object being to take the race-course ultimately altogether from the public roads, and to form a new course. The application of the Race Committee was remitted to a committee of the Council, who afterwards, on the 2nd April, asked the Council to permit them to confer with the Race Committee as to the terms on which a lease should be granted. A member of Council moved—"That, understanding that the Council is under the necessity of sanctioning one day's racing in the year, there ought to be no further encouragement granted to the practice." An amendment was carried "that the committee be authorised to treat with the Racing Com-

¹ The amount of amusement furnished to the inhabitants at this fair exceeded anything of the kind for the previous twenty years. There were fifteen Waterloo-flys and merry-go-rounds, Buckley's Exhibition, Mumford's Theatre of Arts, Pavilion of Novelty, Steel's Minor Theatre, Scott's Royal Pantheon, glass-blowing and working in miniature, scriptural and historical paintings; Wallace, the Scotch gigantic youth; the surprising giantess; the astonishing child, born without hands or arms; Wombwell's royal collection of quadrupeds, reptiles, and birds, wild and tame, with a lion and tiger occupying the same cage.

mittee for a lease of the ground wanted, upon the understanding that there is to be racing upon two days, viz., upon the Friday and Saturday of St. James Day Fair, from twelve noon till sunset." On the 22nd of this month the Council, on the recommendation of the Property Committee, let certain fields within the race-course at an annual rent of £54 11s. 1d.; and in December following the Council let more ground to the Race Committee.

The announcement for the races on 15th and 16th August, 1834, was in every respect the same as in the preceding year. On this occasion there was nothing novel in connection with the races. Four horses started in the race at twelve o'clock on Friday, and it was won by Mr. R. Cumming's mare, Little-Thought-Of. The same number ran in the "Bell" race, and it was won by Joseph Miller's brown mare, Maggy. On the following day the number of horses that ran was about the same, but the spectators were fewer than in 1833.

In 1835 some alterations were made in the advertisement regarding the races. The stakes for the race at twelve o'clock, on Friday, were raised to thirty guineas; and for the winner of the "Silver Bells," eight guineas were added by the committee. On Saturday the horses in the race at twelve o'clock were to be the *bona-fide* property of gentlemen residing in the Counties of Lanark or Renfrew. At two o'clock the race was to be for twenty guineas, and the winner of the race at twelve o'clock in the previous day was to be excluded. Five horses started for the first race on Friday, which was won by Mr. Morrison's Miss Hope; and the same number for the "Silver Bells," Mr. Morrison's Wombwell being the winner. A great number of people from Glasgow and the district round about Paisley attended the races, and it was estimated that there would be forty thousand people assembled on the race-course. There were upwards of sixty tents; and the erections for people to view the races were on a large scale, amounting to a dozen in all. The races presented a more than usually animated scene. The hustings were all completely crowded. Immense numbers thronged the parks, and the adjacent roads were covered with horses, carts, gigs, and carriages of all descriptions. The order maintained was greatly superior to that of any former year. The patronage this year was also more liberal than formerly, nearly all the nobility of the county having contributed to the race funds. New arrangements were carried out by the committee. A bell was rung to clear the course, to warn to saddle, and to confirm the starting; and this proved a decided improvement, for it let all know what was to be done.

In December of this year additional ground was acquired by the Race Committee from the Council with the view of still further improving the race-course.

The published placard of the races that took place at St. James Day Fair in 1836, was very different from any of the preceding ones, and these differences were of importance. The number of

the races was increased, as well as the amount of the prizes; and the Stewards, under whose auspices the races were conducted, now advertised for the first time, embraced the first noblemen in the country. The advertisement by the Race Committee is so important, that we give it entire. It is as follows:—

PAISLEY RACES, 1836.

These races take place on Friday and Saturday, the 12th and 13th days of August next.

Stewards—

The Right Hon. the Earl of EGLINTON.
 ARCHIBALD HASTIE, Esq., M.P.
 ALEXANDER SPEIRS, Esq., M.P.
 The Right Hon. Viscount KELBURNE.
 Sir JAMES BOSWELL, Bart.
 W. M. ALEXANDER, Esq. of Southbar.
 GEORGE HOUSTON, Esq., Yr. of Johnstone Castle.

Friday, 12 o'clock.

The Burgh Member's Plate of 50 guineas. Heats. Two miles and distance. Weights—3-year-olds, 7st. 5lbs.; 4 do., 9st. 1lb.; 6 and aged, 9st. 4lbs.

Same Day.—The Hunters' Stakes of 10 sovereigns each p. p., with 20 sovereigns added by the committee for horses that have been hunted with Lord Kelburne's hounds at least three times during the last season. No horse to be allowed to start that is not actually a hunter. Gentlemen riders, weight 12st. 7lbs. Heats. Two miles. Six subscribers. But only the following gentlemen are named:—A. W. Speirs, Esq.; James Merry, jun., Esq.; Alexander Fletcher, Esq.; Alexander Cunningham, Esq.

Same Day.—The "Silver Bells," given by the Town of Paisley, with 10 sovereigns added by the committee. Open to all horses. Three-year-olds, 7st. 9lb.; 4 do., 9st.; 5 do., 9st. 9lb.; 6 and aged, 10st. Heats. Twice round and from the north-west corner home. Second horse in winning heat (provided three start) to be allowed 3 sovereigns.

Same Day.—The "Aftershots," for a purse, by the beaten horses in the Bell race. Two miles and quarter. Weights as in said race.

Saturday, 12 o'clock.

The Glasgow Subscribers' Cup of 50 sovereigns, added to a sweepstake of 5 sovereigns each p. p. Three-year-olds, 7st. 5lbs.; 4 do., 8st. 7lbs.; 5 do., 9st. 1lb.; 6 and aged, 9st. 4lbs. Heats. Two miles and distance.

Same Day.—The Yeomanry Stakes of 2 sovereigns each p. p., with a sum added. Open to two horses from each troop of the Renfrewshire Yeomanry, and which shall have done regular duty during the current year. The winner and second horse in each troop race, provided such shall have taken place, to have the preference. The length of the race and weights to be afterwards determined.

Same Day.—The Paisley Subscription Cup of 50 sovereigns. Heats. 1 Mile and quarter. Three-year-olds, 7st. 9lbs.; 4 do., 9st. 9lbs.; 6 and aged, 10st. The winners of each of the Member's Plate and Glasgow Cup to carry 5lbs. extra.

Same Day.—A Free Handicap of 8 sovereigns each, with 10 sovereigns added by the committee for the beaten horses of the week. The weights to be declared immediately after the previous race. One mile and a quarter.

Same Day.—Match for 50 sovereigns.

The entries for the Member's Plate, Glasgow and Paisley Cups, and "Silver Bells," to be made with the Secretary by two o'clock of the day previous to the running. Entry-money for the Member's Plate and Cups 2 sovereigns, 5s. to the Clerk, and 2s. for weights. Entry-money for the other races in proportion. The money added to each of the stakes to be withdrawn if walked over for.

Mares and geldings to be allowed 3lbs.; and a winner during the present year, previous to the day of entry, of 50 sovereigns, to carry 3lbs. extra. A winner of 100 sovereigns to carry 5lbs. extra. The races to start each day at twelve o'clock, and half-an-hour will be allowed between each heat and race. The bell will be rung for saddling, and again for starting; and five minutes thereafter the horses at the post will be started without waiting for others.

On ringing for saddling the course will be cleared, and anyone attempting to cross will be taken into custody.

These and the rules of York and Doncaster will be strictly adhered to; and all disputes will be subject to the final determination of the Stewards, or those they may appoint.

All dogs found on the course will be destroyed.

JOHN AULD, Secretary.

N.B.—Stances for tents or scaffolds may still be had on application to the Secretary, No. 5 Moss Street, Paisley.

The ground let by public roup this year by the Race Committee for tents and stances at the race-course realised £120. In the previous year they had amounted to £73. At the race at noon on Friday eight horses started, and the winner was the Earl of Eglinton's Acolus. Four horses started at the Hunters' Stakes which followed, and Mr. A. W. Speirs's Silvan won; and four horses started at the Bell race, which was won by Mr. Smellie's Cistercian. On the following day (Saturday) three horses started at the first race, which was won by Mr. W. R. Ramsay's Forester; and at the second race five horses, when Mr. Smellie's Cistercian won. The Yeomanry race did not take place, no horses having come forward. Likewise the race for the Handicap of three sovereigns was, for want of competitors, not run. The match for fifty sovereigns was contested by Mr. Merry and Mr. Bonar, but the horse belonging to the former gentleman fell and was killed. Mr. Merry himself was considerably hurt, but not dangerously. With this exception no accident occurred.

The proceedings at the race-course on this occasion were of a more animated nature than usual, and the races attained much greater celebrity on account of the excellence of the course and the number of distinguished persons in attendance. Among the numerous conspicuous persons on the course were the Earl of Eglinton, Lord Kelburne, Sir James Boswell, W. M. Alexander of Southbar, Mr. Fleming of Barochan, Mr. Ramsay of Barnton; Sir

W. Napier, Bart. of Milliken and family; Mr. Cunningham of Craigends; Mr. W. Macdowall of Garthland; Mr. W. Houston, Johnstone Castle; Colonel Harvey of Castlesemple and family; Alexander Oswald, Younger of Shieldhall; Professor Wilson and family; Thomas Campbell, Esq., the poet. Ten stances, exclusive of the mound, were erected for witnessing the races; and the refreshment tents numbered about fifty.

It was difficult to estimate the number of persons forming the immense crowd that attended the races, but it was certainly much greater than had ever been witnessed on any similar occasion. The prevailing estimate was fifty thousand. The Stewards expressed themselves much pleased with the whole arrangements of the committee, and subscribed 120 guineas, to be added to the races in 1837. They also subscribed to various other races to the extent of about £200; and further, in order to encourage the breed of horses, subscribed to races, for two and three-year-old horses, for the years 1839 and 1840.

In the following month the Council, after a conference of a committee of their number with the Race Committee, agreed to allow that committee to erect a permanent stand adjoining the Greenock Road upon the race-grounds; and to remove the same at the end of the lease, if not taken by the Town Council at a valuation. The Council also agreed to allow the winner of the "Silver Bells" to retain possession of them for a year, on security being given for returning them. The Council also agreed that the Fair called St. James Day Fair, which has latterly been held within the burgh upon the second Thursday of August and two following days, shall hereafter be held upon the third Thursday of August and two following days yearly, and appointed this alteration to be duly advertised. On 25th October in this year, a motion was made that the races be run on Thursday and Friday instead of Friday and Saturday, but an amendment was carried that there should be no change. But on 13th December following, this subject was again brought before the Council by the Secretary to the Race Committee, when the Council agreed that the races at St. James Day Fair should be altered from Friday and Saturday to Thursday and Friday. The Council, in fixing the conditions of the lease on 27th December resolved that, while it was their opinion that there should not be more than two days' racing, the particular days should not be specified in the lease.

The racing in 1837 took place on the 17th and 18th August. The stewards were the same as in the previous year, and there was an additional number of races. At the first race at twelve o'clock on Thursday, called the Paisley St. Leger Stakes of twenty-five sovereigns each, with fifty sovereigns added from the Race Fund, three horses started, when Mr. Merry's Bederston won. Five horses ran for the Burgh Member's Plate of fifty guineas, given by A. Hastie, Esq., M.P. for the Burgh. It was won by Sir Wm. Scott's The Count. The next race was the Glasgow Cup (specie), value two hundred sovereigns, added to a stake of twenty-five sovereigns

from the Race Fund. Only one horse (Mr. Ramsay's Vestment) was brought forward and walked over the course. Seven horses started for the Paisley Cup (specie), value one hundred sovereigns. It was won by Earl of Eglinton's Potentate. On the second day (Friday) the first race was for the "Silver Bells," with one hundred and twenty sovereigns added by the stewards of the previous year, and three horses ran. It was won by Mr. Houston's Inheritor. The Glasgow Plate of fifty sovereigns was the next race, and eight horses started. It was won by Sir James Boswell's Sunbeam. Three horses ran for the Gold Cup, by subscription of fifteen sovereigns added from the Race Fund. It also was won by the Earl of Eglinton's Potentate. Then followed a sweepstake of twenty sovereigns each, with twenty sovereigns added from the Race Fund. Two horses ran, and Mr. Ramsay's Centurion won. Afterwards came the Hunters' Stakes of ten sovereigns each, with twenty sovereigns from the fund. As only one horse came forward, there was a walk over the course by Mr. Cossar's Conservative. The day's racing was brought to a close by the after-shots, and two horses started. It was won by Sir James Boswell's Bella. The following amongst others had horses running at these races :—Earl of Eglinton, Lord Kelburne, Sir James Boswell, Lord Rosslyn, Sir William Scott, Mr. Merry, Mr. Ramsay of Barnton.

The races that year were superior to any that had ever been held at St. James Day Fair, and, it may be safely stated, they had arrived at the highest pinnacle of their fame. The amount of the prizes run for, the number of good horses, the immense crowd of spectators, the extent of accommodation provided for them, the excellent condition of the course, and the favourable state of the weather—all combined to confer a degree of attractiveness on the races never before equalled in Scotland. A professional judge (Mr. Orton) acted for the first time at these races. There were sixteen stands for witnessing the races, and about one hundred regular tents. Among the tents on the field was one called "The St. James Club-house." It was a branch of one of the gambling establishments in London. Rouge-et-noir and roulette were the kinds of game carried on. Refreshments were given, and much politeness was shown to the visitors, many of whom hazarded their money, and, as a matter of course, lost it. Mr. Orton, who had much experience in these matters, was of opinion that on Thursday there were present not fewer than 110,000 to 115,000 persons. On Friday the number was greater by several thousands. On both days the front and back seats of the grand stand were filled in their whole length with female rank and fashion, and the space behind was occupied by several noblemen and many gentlemen of distinction. Among these were the Earl of Rosslyn, the Earl of Eglinton, Viscount Kelburne, Lord Seymour, Sir William Scott, Sir W. M. Napier, Bart.; George Houston, Esq., M.P.; Colonel Crawford, Alexander Speirs, Esq., M.P.; Claud Alexander, Esq. of Ballochmyle; W. M. Alexander, Esq. of Southbar; William Macdowall,

Esq. of Garthland ; Captain Dunlop, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Barry, Mr. Merry, Bailie Lumsden, Mr. Campbell of Jura, Mr. Campbell of Sornbeg, Colonel Harvey of Castlesempole, Mr. Bailie of Polkemmet, Mr. Wilson of Aucheneden, Sir Robert Pollok of Upper Pollok, Bart.; Hew Crawford, Esq.; Mr. Harvey of Castlesempole ; William Napier, Esq. of Blackston ; W. M. Fleming, Esq. of Barochan ; Thomas Dundas Speirs, Esq.; David Mure, Esq., advocate ; Wm. Cunningham, Esq. of Craighends ; Alexander Cunningham, Esq.; William Houstoun, Esq., Johnstone Castle ; — Campbell, Esq. of Saddell ; Campbell Snodgrass, Esq. of Thornhill ; James Orr, Esq., Crofthead ; R. Stewart, Esq. of Stewarthall ; W. Lowndes, Esq. of Arthurlie ; Charles Lowndes, Esq.; A. Fletcher, Esq.; William Hussey, Esq.; with a great number of other distinguished strangers and resident gentry.

The Paisley Races, or "Meeting," as it was now called, took place on the 16th and 17th of August, 1838. The stewards were Sir William Scott, Bart.; W. R. Ramsay, Esq. of Barnton ; and William M. Fleming, Esq. of Barochan. The number of the races and the value of the stakes were similar to those of 1837, but neither the horses nor the spectators were so numerous. The carriages, of which there were from fifty to sixty of various kinds within the course, were ranged along the eastern side, while numerous equestrians were in the part of the field behind. The arrangements of the Race Committee were so good that neither confusion nor accident occurred. There were none of the professional gamblers present, in consequence of the refusal of the committee to allow them.

The grand stand was completely crowded by a highly fashionable company, the two front rows being wholly occupied by the ladies. Among the company assembled there were, in addition to those of last year, Viscount and Lady Kelburne, Colonel Lord Frederick Fitzclarence, Alexander Speirs, Esq., M.P., and his Lady ; the Hon. General Stewart, the Hon. C. F. Stewart, Sir Frederick Johnstone, Archibald Hastie, Esq., M.P. for the Burgh ; Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Ramsay of Barnton, Sheriff Campbell, and Robert Speir, Esq., yr. of Burnbrae.

In July, 1839, the Race Committee advertised the races to take place on the fourth Thursday of August instead of the third, as formerly arranged with the Council. This matter was brought before that body on the 16th of that month by one of the members, when they agreed that the Race Committee should be written to for an explanation. On the 24th of the same month a communication from Mr. Auld, secretary to the Race Committee, was laid before the Council, apologising for not first asking their permission to make this alteration, and stating "that nothing could have been farther from their intention than to offer the slightest incivility to the Town Council, from whom they at all times received the utmost courtesy." The Council agreed, "seeing that the days of racing have been fixed and extensively advertised, that great inconvenience might

arise to the Race Committee if the time were now changed, and that they might be liable in heavy damages, to allow the races to proceed on the day fixed this year, on condition that this permission shall not be held as a precedent." At this meeting of Council they negatived a proposal made by one of the members to revert to the second Thursday of August as the day for having the races.

The St. James Day Races, on 23rd and 24th August, 1839, varied little as regards their number and the amount of the prizes from those of the preceding year. The stewards were the Earl of Eglinton, David Robertson, Esq., and James Merry, jun., Esq. Notwithstanding that Thursday happened to be the Sacramental Fast-Day in both Glasgow and Greenock, the number of spectators at the race-course was considerably less than in some of the former years. There were only thirty-five tents—not much above one-half the number in the previous year. The grand stand was tastefully fitted up, but the attendance was rather below the average number. There were none of the "*Rouge et Noir*" people on the field, but there were many other minor gambling tables on the Greenock Road. Of race horses there were twenty-nine booked, belonging to seventeen noblemen and gentlemen. The Earl of Eglinton had five, Mr. Ramsay four, Mr. Merry three, Mr. Wauchop three, Mr. Fairly two, and twelve other gentlemen had one each. Two of the horses were booked for five races, three for four races, three for three races, six for two races, and fifteen for one race. The whole number which ran during both days amounted to seventeen, and of this number one ran three races, seven ran two races, and nine ran one race. The regulations of the two former years were adhered to. Carriages and horses were admitted for payment to the inside of the race grounds. No carts or carriages were permitted to stand on the Greenock Road, nor in the lane leading to the carriage entry, nor within the race-course. No carts were permitted to remain on any part of the race grounds after half-past ten o'clock on each day of the races, and no carriages or horses were allowed to stand between the tents and the course.

The question as to the time when the races should take place came under the consideration of the Council on 8th October, 1839, when they, "being of opinion that the change in the time of holding St. James Day Fair from the second to the third Thursday of August and two following days has proved inconvenient to the public, resolved to revert to the second Thursday of August and two following days." On the 15th of that month, the Council changed their opinion somewhat on this matter, and instructed the Property Committee to confer with the Race Committee as to the time of running the Saint James Day Races. On 17th December following, the Council, after considering the report of this committee, agreed that permission be given in the lease to be granted to the Race Committee to run the races upon the third or the fourth Thursday of August and following day, at the option of the committee, under the condition that the days of racing shall not be changed without consent of the Town Council.

The races in 1840 were on the 22nd and 23rd August, and the number of the races and of the prizes were as formerly. The stewards were Viscount Kelburne, Claud Alexander, Esq., and John Tennant, Esq. For the first race on Thursday, the Paisley St. Leger Stakes, two horses started, and Lord Eglinton's Dr. Caius gained. There was no race for the Paisley Champion Stakes, as the two horses entered had become the property of one gentleman. For the sweepstakes of fifteen sovereigns each p.p., for horses belonging to officers of the Royal Dragoons, to be *bona-fide* their property on the day of naming—one mile and a half; to be ridden by officers on full pay—four horses ran, and forfeiture was paid for three horses. The race was won by Colonel Marten's Salamanca. Four horses started for the Glasgow Cup, and it was won by Mr. A. Campbell's Modesty. For the Burgh Member's Plate, three horses started, and it was won by Mr. Bowman's Easingwold. Two horses started for the Paisley Cup, and it was won by the Hon. J. Sandilands's Oswald. On Friday, the first race was for the "Silver Bells." Three horses ran, and the "Bells" were won by Mr. Bowman's Easingwold. The next race was a sweepstake of twenty sovereigns each, with twenty sovereigns added from the fund. Two horses started, and it was won by Mr. Ramsay's Martyrdom. The next race was a match for twenty-five sovereigns each. Won by Mr. Yates's Lear. Two horses started for the County Member's Plate of fifty guineas, given by George Houstoun, Esq., M.P. Two horses ran, and Mr. Ramsay's Sunbeam won. The next race was for a gold cup, by subscription of fifteen sovereigns each. Lord Eglinton's Dr. Caius walked the course. The next race was a sweepstake of ten sovereigns, with twenty-five sovereigns from the fund. It also was walked over by the Hon J. Sandilands's Oswald. The only horses that started for the after-shots were Mr. Bowman's Easingwold and Mr. Redfern's Kathleen, and the former won. In consequence of the greater facilities afforded by the opening of the railways connected with Paisley, an increased number of visitors was expected. On Friday there was an unparalleled number of spectators on the race grounds, there being about a third more than on the previous day. The grand stand was erected to accommodate about 470 spectators, and was fitted up tastefully and substantially. Southwards from it were nine other stands, each capable of accommodating 300 persons. All these had booths underneath for refreshments. In addition to these, there were Patison's mound, with accommodation for 500; Kelburne mound, capable of holding 250; and one person had fourteen carts placed in a line with planks between. All these would give accommodation for above four thousand. The number of equestrians and of carriages, gigs, carts, &c., was immense. There were twenty-four refreshment tents on the grounds. The stands were all crowded during the day. The railways, with the trains passing along, formed a new feature in the scenery. In the race by the officers of Dragoons, one of the riders and his horse

fell near the corner at the distance, but neither was hurt. The rider almost immediately resumed his seat and rode in. Mr. Orton, of York, acted as judge.

Among the company present were the Earl of Eglinton, Viscount Kelburne, Sir William and Lady Milliken Napier and Miss Stirling of Kippendavie, Sir W. A. Maxwell of Calderwood, Hon. Mr. Sandilands, Hon. General Stewart, Hon. C. F. Stewart of Erskine, Sir Gilbert Stirling, Hon. Stewart Erskine, Mr. and Lady Gordon of Aitkenhead and Lady Alicia Erskine, Mr. Houstoun, M.P., and Mrs. Houstoun of Johnstone Castle, Colonel Crawfurd of Newfield, Mr. Fleming of Barochan, Mr. and Mrs. Speir, yr. of Burnbrae; Mr. Thomas and the Misses Speir of Burnbrae, Colonel Marten and the officers of the Royal Dragoons, the officers of the 12th Regiment, Mr. and Miss Loundes of Arthurlie, Mr. Ramsay of Barton, Mr. Napier of Blackstone, Mr. Milliken Napier, yr., of Milliken; Mr. Cuninghame of Craigends, Mr. Alexander Graham of Capilly, Mr. Meikleham of Carnbrae, Mr. Buchanan of Auchentorlie, Colonel Harvey and Mr. Harvey, yr., of Castlesempie; Mr. William Houston, Mr. Thomas Dundas Speirs, Mr. Campbell of Sornbeg, Mr. John Tennant, Mr. Alexander of Ballochmyle, Mr. Campbell of Blythwood, Captain Harrington of Torrance, Mr. Mure of Caldwell, Mr. Alexander of Southbar, Mr. Campbell of Jura, Dr. Cairnie, Largs, &c., &c.

An interesting foot-race took place on the Paisley Race-course on 27th November, 1840. The match was that — Wylde, not Merrylegs, as commonly called, from the neighbourhood of Manchester, who had been a runner from his boyhood, would beat any Scotchman that could be pitted against him for a race of three miles, the Scotchman to be allowed one quarter of a mile of start. The amount of the bet was to be £100, and the winner to pocket the whole. Two persons were at first brought forward as competitors on the Scotch side—Robert Gilchrist, a shepherd, from Straiton Parish, Ayrshire, and William Lindsay, a country weaver. On trial, Gilchrist was preferred. Lindsay went thrice round the course—three miles—in seventeen minutes, but Gilchrist accomplished it in sixteen and a half minutes. After Gilchrist had been in some degree fixed upon, another competitor was brought forward, named James Hamilton, farmer, Laigh Drumclog, in the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire, who went thrice round in sixteen minutes two seconds, and, this being a quicker rate than Gilchrist's, Hamilton was selected. The speed at which Wylde went round was four times in twenty-two minutes forty-five seconds. The number of bets pending on this race was quite astonishing. Several of them amounted to from £30 to £40. It was arranged that the signal for starting should be the discharge of a gun midway between the positions of the parties at starting. Wylde, the Englishman, was a light-made man, of low stature, but very sinewy. His only dress was a pair of striped drawers, reaching half-way down his thighs, his body and legs being wholly bare. His head was wrapped in a

black napkin. Hamilton was a man of five feet ten or eleven inches, and was at least two stones heavier than Wylde. He had on a white stocking slip dress from shoulders to ankle, with a white nightcap of the same material, and he was, like Wylde, bare footed. He had often run at weddings and on other occasions, and was never beaten. On one occasion he ran round the course twice, and on another thrice, but he had no other training. He had been holding the plough since he came to Paisley, and was employed two hours in thrashing on the day of the race. The time taken by Hamilton, who was the winner, was—first round, five minutes ten seconds; second round, five minutes twenty-two seconds; third round, five minutes twenty seconds;—in all, fifteen minutes fifty-two seconds. The time taken from the start to the arrival at the winning-post was fourteen minutes forty-two seconds; but he did not stop at the winning-post—he ran on to his own starting point. That quarter of a mile occupied one minute and ten seconds, making the whole time by running thrice round the course fifteen minutes and fifty-two seconds. Wylde took fourteen minutes and fifty-five seconds, consequently he ran the three miles in fifty-seven seconds less than was taken by Hamilton. The weather was very unfavourable. A close frosty fog settled down the night before, which never cleared off all day, and objects could scarcely be distinguished at the distance of thirty yards. The number of spectators was immense. The race, on the whole, did not possess such deep interest as if both runners had started from one point at the same time, because at no period could both be seen at once. The excitement, especially towards the close of the race, was very great. Hamilton felt almost no fatigue, and Wylde seemed equally fresh on his arrival.

The stewards at the races on 19th and 20th August were Lord Belhaven and Stenton, Mr. Campbell of Blythwood, and Mr. Thomas Speir of Burnbrae. There were the usual number of stands and tents. Shortly after mid-day on Thursday rain began to fall, and continued, with little intermission, till the close of the races. At the first race for the Trial Stakes four horses started, and Mr. Ramsay's Nubian won. Two horses ran for the Burgh Member's Plate, and Mr. Ramsay's Sunbeam won. At the race for the Glasgow Cup two horses started, and Lord Eglinton's Potentate won. Two horses started for the Sweepstakes of twenty sovereigns with twenty sovereigns from the fund, and Mr. Ramsay's Whistle-Binkie won. For the Paisley Cup Lord Eglinton's Dr. Caius walked over. On Friday the weather was more favourable. For the "Silver Bells" only two horses started, and they were won by Lord Eglinton's Potentate. The next race was a match for 120 sovereigns. It was contested by Mr. Hope Johnstone's Returned and Mr. Redfern's Slashing Harry. The owners rode, and the former won. Three horses started for a Sweepstake of fifty sovereigns and fifty sovereigns from the fund, and Mr. C. Alexander's Jerry won. Two horses started for the Plate of fifty

sovereigns, given by Mr. Houston, M.P. Mr. Ramsay's Nubian won. The Blythwood Stakes was walked over by Mr. Ramsay's Sunbeam. For the "Aftershoots" three horses started, and Lord Eglinton's Zoroaster won the race. At the north-west corner coming home, Mr. Cook's Sulieman got off the course and came down, when Noble the rider had his collar-bone broken. The Earl and Countess of Eglinton were among the distinguished visitors at the course.

The St. James Day races in 1843 came off on the 24th and 25th August. The stewards were the Earl of Eglinton, Andrew Johnstone, Esq. of Halleathes, and James Merry, Esq. The judge was Mr. William Nightingale. The number of the races and the amount of the prizes corresponded very much with those of former years.

THURSDAY.

Paisley St. Leger Stakes.—Two horses ran. Winner, Lord Eglinton's Egidia.
 Burgh Member's Plate.—Two horses ran. Winner, Mr. Ramsay's Shadow.
 Glasgow Cup.—Three horses ran. Winner, Lord Eglinton's Jamie Forrest.
 Paisley Cup.—Two horses ran. Winner, Mr. Ramsay's Shadow.
 Match, 100 sovs.—Mr. Willington's Veteran and Captain Boyd's Clown. The former won. Gentlemen riders.

FRIDAY.

Sweepstakes of 20 sovs.—Two horses ran. Winner, Mr. Merry's Prudence.
 The "Silver Bells."—Two horses ran. Winner, Mr. Ramsay's Shadow.
 The Hunters' Stakes.—Two horses ran. Winner, Mr. Ramsay's Zoroaster.
 Railway Stakes of 10 sovs.—Four horses ran. Winner, Mr. Hope Johnstone's William Le Gros.

"Aftershoots."—Three horses ran. Winner, Mr. Merry's Cable.

There were above thirty tents, eight of which were surmounted with hustings for viewing the races. The grand stand was as usual well filled with ladies and gentlemen. The weather on both of the days, but particularly on Friday, was somewhat unfavourable, and the attendance was therefore scarcely so numerous as in some of the former years.

The races in 1844 took place on 22nd and 23rd August. The stewards were the Earl of Glasgow and Sir James Boswell. Judge—William Nightingale, Esq., Skipton, Yorkshire. On Thursday the first race was—

The Paisley St. Leger Stakes.—Three horses ran. Winner, Mr. Dawson's Geneva.

Burgh Member's Plate.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Cook's Zoroaster.
 Glasgow Cup.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr Dawson's The Biddy.

The Paisley Cup.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Ramsay's Lady Skepsey.

On Friday the first race was—

Sweepstakes of 20 sovs.—Two horses ran. Winner, Lord Eglinton's Pythia.

The "Silver Bells."—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Cable.

Hunters' Stakes.—Gentlemen riders.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Cook's Zoroaster.

Railway Stakes.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Christopher.
 Aftershots.—Five horses started. Winner, Mr. Dawson's Geneva.

The races at St. James Day Fair in 1845 took place on 21st and 22nd August. The stewards were the Earl of Eglinton and Winton; James Lumsden, Lord Provost of Glasgow; and Colonel Mure of Caldwell. The races on Thursday commenced with the

Trial Stakes of 5 sovs. and 25 added.—Four horses started. Winner, Lord Eglinton's Bretwalda.

Burgh Member's Plate.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Johnstone's Millden.

Glasgow Cup.—Three horses started. Winner, Sir C. Monk's Glossy.

Paisley Cup.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's John Harris.

FRIDAY.

The races should have commenced with a Sweepstake; but although three horses were entered, none were brought forward.

"Silver Bells."—Two horses started. Winner, Lord Eglinton's Bretwalda.

Hunters' Stakes.—Four horses started. Having first qualified by jumping a wall 3½-feet high. Winner, Mr. Campbell's Waverley.

Railway Stakes.—Four horses started. Winner, Mr. Morris's Mesmeria.

The Aftershots.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's John Harris.

The meeting on the whole went off with great *éclat*, although the absence of many distinguished personages who were wont to grace the course was very generally regretted.

The races at St. James Day Fair in 1846 took place on 20th and 21st August. The stewards were the Earl of Eglinton and Sir James Boswell, Bart.

THURSDAY.

Trial Stakes of 5 sovs. and 25 sovs. added.—Four horses started. Winner, Hon. J. Kennedy's Doctor.

Burgh Member's Plate.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Pilot.

Glasgow Cup.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's John Harris.

Selling Stakes, a sweepstake of 5 sovs., with 25 sovs. added.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Ellis's Claudia.

Paisley Cup.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Badinage.

FRIDAY.

Anybody's Stakes of 5 sovs., with 50 sovs. added.—Four horses started. Winner, Mr. W. H. Johnstone's Marion Ramsay.

"Silver Bells."—Four horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Pilot.

Hunters' Stakes.—Two horses started, and first qualified by jumping a wall 3½-feet high. Winner, Mr. John Henderson's Speculator. Gentlemen riders.

Railway Stakes.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Badinage.

Aftershots.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Hill's Bathen.

On Friday the weather was good, and the number of spectators who visited the course was estimated at 70,000.

The races in 1847 were on 19th and 20th August. The first race was the

Trial Stakes.—Four horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's John Harris.

Burgh Member's Plate.—Four horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Marion Ramsay.

Glasgow Cup.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Chanticleer.

The Selling Stakes.—Four horses started. Winner, Mr. H. Murland's Tanais.

The Paisley Cup.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Pilot.

The first race on Friday was—

Anybody's Stakes.—Mr. Merry's Pilot walked over.

"Silver Bells."—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Chanticleer.

Hunters' Stakes.—Mr. Speirs's Alligator walked over.

Railway Stakes.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's John Harris.

Aftershots.—Five horses started. Winner, Mr. Nicol's Moscow.

The estimated number of people on the course on Thursday was 30,000, and on Friday, 40,000.

The races at St. James Day Fair took place in 1848 on 17th and 18th August. The stewards were Colonel Mure and Sir James Boswell. The first race on Thursday was—

The Trial Stakes.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Aspasia.

Burgh Member's Plate.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Pilot.

Glasgow Cup.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Collier.

Selling Stakes.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. M'Kenzie's John Harris.

Paisley Cup.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Pilot.

The first on Friday was—

A Sweepstake.—Three horses started. Winner, Captain J. Campbell's Headsman.

"Silver Bells."—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Pilot.

Hunters' Stakes.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Collier.

Railway Stakes.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. M'Kenzie's John Harris.

Aftershots.—Four horses started. Winner, Mr. Merry's Aspasia.

There was a want of ladies on the grand-stand, and the attendance of gentlemen, usually so considerable, was greatly diminished. The crowd who visited the course on Friday was immense, numbering, as is supposed, not less than 50,000, and about three times Thursday's number.

In 1849 the races came off on 30th and 31st August. The stewards were Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart, Archibald Hastie, Esq., J. R. Lee Harvey of Castlesemple, George Baird, Esq. of Gartsherrie. The first race on Thursday, 30th, was—

The Trial Stakes.—Six horses started. Winner, Mr. Dinning's Railway King.

Burgh Member's Plate.—Four horses started. Winner, Mr. Drake's Reversion.

Glasgow Cup.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Shepherd's Alp.

Selling Stakes.—Six horses started. Winner, Capt. O. V. Harcourt's Inheritor.

Glasgow Yeomanry Stakes.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Lawson's California.

The Paisley Cup.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Shepherd's Alp.

On Friday the first race was—

A Sweepstake of 5 sovs., with 20 sovs. added.—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Dinning's Railway King.

“Silver Bells.”—Three horses started. Winner, Mr. Russell's Tortoise.

Hunters' Stakes.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Sharkey's Eighen.

Railway Stakes.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Drake's Reversion.

Aftershots.—Two horses started. Winner, Mr. Drake's Reversion.

Mr. David Campbell acted as clerk, and Mr. John Auld as judge. The number of spectators on the course was fully more than that of last year.

The races did not pass off so quietly this year as hitherto. The sports of Thursday were followed by a most disgraceful riot, which took place on the course towards midnight, after the whole of the police had left. It commenced with a number of blackguards throwing about an old tree-stump, which they had procured in the neighbourhood for the purpose of gathering the crowd. Speedily the rioters commenced an indiscriminate assault upon the stalls, and stole hams, biscuits, tarts, clothing, and everything which came in their way. The owners of the tents after a time, but not until they had been divested of a considerable amount of property, united in self-defence, and succeeded in capturing about a dozen of the ring-leaders and in having them conveyed to the Police Office. The whole of those apprehended belonged to Glasgow.

In the beginning of 1829 the Council resolved to remove the slaughter-house from behind the flesh-market in Moss Street, where it had been for many years. This became necessary to admit of the formation of the new street from the County Buildings to Dyers' Wynd, and ultimately to the Cross; and also to remedy the insufficient accommodation. The first proposal was to erect the new shambles on the side of the river in Sneddon; but this idea, owing to the opposition it raised, was abandoned, and they were built on the site where they now stand. The butchers objected very much at first to going so far out of the town.

In 1836 the Council erected a new flesh-market on the west side of Gilmour Street. Very few of the butchers went to it, and for several years only one stall was used in it, viz., by Miss Burns. After she left the market, it was let for several years to tradesmen; and latterly the Council feued the ground, on the southern part of which now stands the handsome shop of Messrs. Alexander King & Son. When the market was removed from Moss Street to Gilmour Street, the Council disposed of the ground on which the old market stood. A superior building was erected on the site, and the floor above the range of shops is used as a hall, and known by the name of the Exchange Rooms.

The appalling public spectacle of the execution of criminals had not hitherto been frequent, the last being the case of Potts in 1797.

In 1829 the inhabitants, however, witnessed the execution of two men for committing the serious offences of housebreaking and theft in the neighbourhood of the town.

On Sunday morning, the 14th June in that year, John Craig, glazier; James Brown, labourer; and Robert Stewart, weaver, all Irishmen, violently entered the house of Mr. William Robertson, bleacher, West Foxbar. He and his sister were the only inmates. Mr. Robertson was alarmed by an uncommon noise in the house, upon which he arose and endeavoured to get out of his room, but was prevented by one of the robbers holding the door fast. Mr. Robertson then had recourse to a poker, with which he broke the pannel of the door, and by this means he was enabled to get to the room from which the noise proceeded. He there found that they had abused Miss Robertson, who was then lying on the floor. Mr. Robertson was also repeatedly struck by one of the number with a bludgeon. Thus situated, and finding further resistance unavailing, Mr. Robertson submitted to a minute and strict examination of the house for money, and the robbers left after spending an hour in it. Previous to leaving it, they bound both Mr. and Miss Robertson, and used horrid imprecations in threatening what would follow should they give the alarm. They carried with them from the house a single-barrelled gun, a quantity of silver tea and table-spoons, a bank cheque for £90, and about twelve shillings in silver. Mr. Robertson having got loose, unbound his sister and gave the alarm. Craig and Brown were apprehended in Belfast, and on 22nd September following were charged before Lord Moncrieff and a jury at Glasgow Assizes with this housebreaking and robbery. Stewart was outlawed for not appearing. Craig pled guilty, and the Judge warned him that he was pleading guilty to a crime which was punishable with death. He, however, pled guilty a second and third time. The jury found Brown to be guilty, and the two men were sentenced to be executed on the 29th October, in County Square, Paisley. Prior to the day of execution they showed great attention to the religious instructions given to them by Professor Symington, Rev. Mr. Geddes, Messrs. Warrand Carlile, Robert Symington, and John Hart. The prisoners, particularly Craig, ascribed all their misfortunes to violating the Sabbath and wandering about the fields on that day. The stick with which Craig struck Mr. Robertson was cut in a wood on the Sabbath day.¹

¹ The reader is referred for further information to "The Journal of Conversations with John Craig and James Brown previous to their execution at Paisley, 29th October, 1829, by the Rev. John Geddes, minister of the High Church, Paisley; with an address to the prisoners by the Rev. Professor Symington, Paisley." Also "A Sermon to the Young, preached at the request of John Craig and James Brown while under the sentence of death in Paisley Jail, and delivered in the High Church, Paisley, on Sabbath evening, 15th November, 1829, by the Rev. John Geddes." Also to "A Voice from the Scaffold, or a Solemn Address, on the execution of John Craig and James Brown, by the Rev. Dr. Burns, of St. George's, Paisley." These were all published by Mr. Alexander Gardner, bookseller, Paisley.

They were both married and had large families. The interviews with them all before the day of execution formed heartrending scenes. At the execution, County Square was filled with a great crowd of people.

Seven years afterwards there was another execution, arising from the perpetration of a barbarous murder, an event of very rare occurrence in Paisley. William Perry, a native of Glasgow, who had been working in Paisley for seventeen years as a tobacco-spinner, went home to his house in Barclay Street on the 31st May, 1837. After entering the house, he sent out two of his children by his first wife, and afterwards barred the door. Immediately thereafter a scuffling was heard, intermingled with cries of murder. A woman who lived in an adjoining house attempted to open the door, but found it barred; she applied all her strength to the door, and Mrs. Perry, who appeared at the same moment to have got the bar removed, fled staggering into her neighbour's, where she cried out—"I am gone; send for assistance." In a few minutes, and before any medical aid could be procured, she breathed her last. The deed was committed with a common three-sided saw file ground to a bayonet, and stuck into a short handle. At the moment after the deed, and no doubt during its commission, Perry was in quite a distracted state, and his eyes were glaring with such desperation that his neighbours feared he would attempt suicide, but they took some precautions to prevent this until the arrival of the officers of police, who took him into custody. When the body was examined, eight wounds were found upon it,—two in the arm, three near the shoulder, one behind the ear, one in the back, and one in the breast, by which the fatal instrument reached and penetrated the heart. The wound in the back was supposed to have been the last of all, dealt as the woman was flying out of the door. And in this wound the instrument appears to have stuck, as it dropped from the body on the floor of the neighbour's house. Perry, on the same evening, underwent an examination before the Sheriff and the Procurator-Fiscal of the County; and after being particularly cautioned, according to the practice observed in such cases, against self-crimination, he freely emitted a declaration confessing his guilt. Perry's first wife died in the spring of the previous year, and he married Mary Mitchell, his second wife, although he knew of her having been the mother of several illegitimate children. He was a man of strong passions, and deep jealousy found ample fuel on which to feed in the past history of his wife. It was in one of these moods he murdered her. Perry was tried for the crime of murder on 27th September following, at the Glasgow Circuit Court, before Lord Cockburn and a jury. A most ingenious defence by his counsel, Mr. Maxwell, of temporary insanity, was attempted, but the jury unanimously found him guilty, and four of them recommended him to mercy. During the time between condemnation and execution he was most penitent, and conducted himself with

the greatest propriety. The Rev. John Macnaughtan¹ attended him most assiduously till his last moments. At eight o'clock on the morning of the 18th October, 1837, he was executed in front of the County Buildings, in the presence of a great assemblage. The whole space from the County Buildings to Moss Street, and from Dyers' Wynd to Sneddon Street, presented an almost uninterrupted mass of human heads. Before the body was interred within the precincts of the jail, a phrenologist, with some assistance, took a cast of the head.

The year 1830 was memorable for the commencement, not only in Paisley but throughout the whole nation, of important political agitations, which terminated in completely altering the system of electing Members of Parliament. King George IV. died on 26th June, 1830, and immediately thereafter William IV. was proclaimed King. This led to a new election of Parliament. In the meantime events of great importance happened in France. The King abolished the liberty of the press, dissolved the Chambers, and adopted a new mode of electing the Deputies for the Lower House. Then followed the Revolution on the 24th, 25th, and 26th July, or, as they were termed, "the three glorious days of Paris," which ended in the abdication of Charles X. These proceedings had a most extraordinary influence on the politics of this country. Many meetings were held in the various towns in England, and an enthusiastic one in Edinburgh congratulated the French people on the successful progress of their Revolution, and resolved to subscribe funds for the relations of those who had fallen in the several encounters with the military. On the 19th August a preliminary meeting of persons with similar objects in view was held in the hall of the Paisley Philosophical Institution. They appointed a committee to draw up a requisition and present it to the Provost and Magistrates to call a meeting of the inhabitants to consider the best means of giving expression to public opinion regarding the occurrences in France. As the Magistrates did not see it to be their duty to accede to the request, the requisitionists called a meeting themselves, to be held on the 2nd September, in the church, St. James Street. This meeting was numerous attended, was influential in character, and the proceedings were most enthusiastic. Sir John Maxwell of Pollok was called to the chair, and the speakers who moved and supported resolutions were Mr. Wallace of Kelly, Mr. Speirs of Elderslie, Messrs. Hugh Macfarlane, William Barr, William Bell, John Crawford, James Fleming, John Gilchrist, and George Mason. The following is a copy of the resolutions carried, which will best exhibit the temper of the meeting :—

1. "That the inhabitants of Paisley, participating in the joy

¹ He afterwards published "A Sketch of the Life of William Perry, and Recollections of Conversations with him during his Confinement and when under the Sentence of Death," as given in two discourses preached in the High Church on 22nd October, being the Sabbath after his execution.

which pervades all ranks of His Majesty's loyal subjects in this country, beg leave to congratulate the people of France on their late glorious struggle, and more especially to convey to the citizens of Paris the expression of their applause for securing, by their noble resistance to arbitrary power, the inestimable blessings of liberty and well-regulated government."

2. "That the moderation which has so eminently characterised the conduct of the French people in obtaining so signal a victory over their infatuated ruler exhibits to the world a striking instance of the triumph of virtue and patriotism over bigotry and intolerance, and justly entitles them to the esteem and admiration of every friend of liberal institutions."

3. "That the magnanimous conduct on the part of the people of France affords to rulers at once a splendid example of the folly and danger of attempting by despotic measures to prevent the diffusion of knowledge and to enslave mankind; and at the same time demonstrates that it is the true wisdom of statesmen, in accordance with the spirit of an enlightened age, considerably to adopt such improvements as time and experience demand."

4. "That the more effectually to evince our feeling and esteem for the citizens of Paris, a public subscription shall be entered into and the proceeds presented to the wounded and to the relatives of those who have fallen in the late glorious and eventful struggle—a struggle by which the liberties of the people of Europe have been so greatly advanced."

5. "That these resolutions be transmitted to the venerable and patriotic General La Fayette and to the Prefect of Paris, with a respectful request that the same be communicated to the inhabitants of Paris, and to the people of France generally, in whatever manner they consider best."

The feeling in favour of a better representation of the people in Parliament had now become very strong among all classes. The visit of Mr. Hume to Paisley on 17th September, when an address was presented to him, and the manner in which his observations were received, manifested a great desire for Parliamentary reform. At that time arrangements were made to hold a public meeting to petition the King and the House of Commons for a radical reform of Parliament. This meeting took place on the 16th November in the Thread Street Church; and by the hour of assembling the church, which was able to contain nearly 2000, was densely filled, and many hundreds were unable to obtain admittance. Sir John Maxwell of Pollok occupied the chair; and resolutions in favour of Parliamentary reform, supported by Mr. Wallace of Kelly, Mr. Speirs of Elderslie, Messrs. George Gardner, William Waterston, George Mason, William Barr, J. Osburn, James Fleming, and John Henderson, were carried amidst great enthusiasm.

Parliament was formally opened on 1st November, and on the 16th a motion relating to the civil list was brought up, the decision

upon which left the Government in a minority of twenty-nine. The Premier (the Duke of Wellington) along with his colleagues immediately resigned. Earl Grey being called upon by the King, formed a new Ministry. In the first speech of Earl Grey in the House of Lords after assuming the premiership, he stated his willingness to support a measure for the better representation of the people in the House of Commons. The attention of the public after this announcement became entirely engrossed in the subject of Parliamentary reform. In every town of any importance in the country enthusiastic meetings were held to give support to the new Ministry, and the Houses of Parliament were called upon to give such an extension of the franchise as would include a fair representation of the property and intelligence of the country. On 3rd December a public meeting of the noblemen and gentlemen, freeholders, Commissioners of Supply, heritors, magistrates of towns, Justices of the Peace, merchants, and manufacturers of the county of Renfrew, was held in the County Hall, to congratulate His Majesty King William IV. on the occasion of his having displaced an administration which had proved hostile to the liberty and prosperity of the country, and to implore His Majesty forthwith to dissolve the present Parliament, and thereby enable the people to return representatives in consonance with their own opinion; and also to take into consideration the propriety of stating to the King and his Ministry the necessity of an immediate reform of the Commons House of Parliament. The meeting was well attended, and Sir John Maxwell was called to the chair. The proposers and supporters of the resolutions that were carried in accordance with the terms upon which the meeting was held were — Mr. Wallace of Kelly, Mr. C. Bontine of Ardoch, Mr. Speirs of Elderslie, Mr. Maxwell, yr. of Pollok, Messrs. Simpson, Ritchie, and Gardner. At this time the Town Council, like almost every similar body in Scotland, had also under their consideration the subject of Parliamentary and Burgh reform, and unanimously agreed to petition both Houses of Parliament in favour of the same. This moderate and sensible petition, dated 16th December, 1830, was as follows:—

“That your petitioners view with great satisfaction the resolution of His Majesty's Ministers to adopt a system of retrenchment and economy in every branch of the public expenditure; that your petitioners also rejoice in the assurance given by His Majesty's Ministers that the state of representation in Parliament is about to be taken into consideration by the Government; that in counties in this part of the United Kingdom the elective franchise is vested to a great extent in those who have no interest in the soil, and the members for Royal Burghs are elected by the Magistrates and Council, who generally elect their successors, and form but a very small part of the community. It is therefore expedient that the elective franchise be amended. That many populous towns have no voice in the election of members to serve in Parliament — Paisley, with its suburbs, comprehending a manufacturing population of nearly

50,000 persons, being in that situation ; that the petitioners humbly submit that the claim of such a population to send a member to represent them in Parliament cannot be overlooked in remodelling the representative system of the kingdom ; that the constitutions of most of the Royal Burghs and Burghs of Barony are defective ; that your petitioners have not only no desire to possess political rights to the exclusion of respectable fellow-citizens in the municipal affairs of the town, but are disposed to regard with entire satisfaction any Parliamentary reform which, by extending the elective franchise, shall diffuse more equal political rights amongst His Majesty's subjects, and which at the same time shall be calculated to preserve inviolate the just balance and stability of our invaluable Constitution."

During the great European war there were reading-rooms in every quarter of the town, but in the period of peace that followed they were all given up with the exception of the one in Sneddon district. The stirring and interesting events of Reform, however, again diffused a spirit of inquiry and a demand for news among the inhabitants, and several new reading-rooms were opened. In the one in Broomlands there were 140 members.

On the 4th January, 1831, the first preliminary meeting of a committee of the Renfrewshire Political Union was held in the Saracen's Head Inn — Mr. Wallace of Kelly in the chair. A sub-committee was appointed to prepare the rules and regulations of the Union, with the duties of the members and the council of the Union. These were similar to those adopted by the Birmingham Union. At a meeting held on the 14th February following, in the church, St. James Street — Sir John Maxwell in the chair — the rules prepared by the committee were confirmed, and the members' quarterly contributions fixed at sixpence. The meeting agreed to petition Parliament in favour of a reduction of taxation, a shorter duration of Parliaments, extension of the elective franchise to male householders, and of giving burgesses in burghs the power to elect their councillors.

The Government measure for a reform of the representation of the people in the House of Commons, which had been looked forward to with great anxiety, was brought before Parliament on 1st March, 1831. The bill was generally approved of by the country. On the 7th of that month the Political Union held a meeting to discuss the different parts of the bill, and although it fell short of the principles of the Union, they approved of it. Petitions were at once forwarded to the King, Lords, and Commons, cordially thanking His Majesty and His Ministers for the reform proposed, and praying the legislature to pass it, undiminished in its scope, immediately into law. On the 15th of that month the Town Council also agreed that petitions should be presented to the Houses of Parliament approving of the Reform Bill submitted to the House of Commons by His Majesty's Ministers. On the same

day a public meeting of bankers, merchants, manufacturers, professional gentlemen, and other inhabitants of Paisley, called by Provost Gilmour, passed resolutions approving of the Reform Bill, and expressing grateful thanks for the benefits proposed to be conferred on Paisley by allowing the town the privilege of sending a member to Parliament to represent its extensive and varied interests. The meeting also agreed that an address to the King, and petition to both Houses of Parliament, should be subscribed by the inhabitants. These petitions, in the course of less than two days, were signed by 7500 of the inhabitants. On the 16th of that month the Commissioners of Police likewise agreed that a dutiful address to His Majesty, and petitions to both Houses of Parliament should be forwarded in favour of the Reform Bill. And on the 18th of that month a general meeting of the County of Renfrew was held in the Square in front of the County Buildings,—Sir John Maxwell in the chair,—when resolutions were passed in favour of the Reform Bill, and of an address to His Majesty William IV.; and it was agreed that petitions to Parliament, founded on these resolutions, should immediately be forwarded. This meeting was attended by upwards of six thousand persons of a fairly representative character. On the 21st March the second reading of the Reform Bill was carried in the House of Commons by a majority of one. This caused great excitement throughout the country. When the news of this result arrived in Paisley, they afforded the greatest satisfaction, and the different reading-rooms resounded with tumultuous applause. In a few hours after the arrival of the news, a requisition, signed by a number of respectable gentlemen was presented to the Provost, requesting permission to illuminate the town on Monday evening, the 28th March. This permission was granted to all who chose to illuminate, and instructions were given to ring the bells from eight to ten in the evening. On that day the County Buildings were decked with flags, and many more were displayed from windows and chimney-tops. Notwithstanding the short time allowed to prepare devices and transparencies, they were numerous, and many of them were very good. The County Buildings and Mr. Lowndes's house bristled with torches. In Dr. Paton's window was displayed a luminous circle, like a halo, with the large figure "One" in the form of a pillar in the centre, 1688 on the apex, 1831 at the base, while on the shaft of the pillar there was inscribed "one is enough." In Mr. Fletcher's a very tasteful, well-executed transparency was displayed, with the King's Crown surmounted by 302; in the four angles were inscribed the names of Hamilton, Argyle, Grey, and Russell, and in a panel below those of Jeffrey, McIntosh, Ferguson, Kennedy, and Grant. Several portraits of the King were displayed. There was one in the window of Mr. Murray, the painter, surmounted by "William IV. Rex.," and in a circle underneath Earl Grey and His Majesty's Ministers. His Majesty was represented in Court dress. The likeness was striking, and was very generally admired. In Mr. Gillespie's window there appeared a beautiful Crown, with the words

"Loyal Reform" beneath. In the window of George Gardner was a Crown, supported on the right by the King, and on the left by the Ministry, and beneath by the People; two branches composed of the Rose, Thistle, and Shamrock entwined, sprang from "unity and freedom," and meeting at the top formed a circle in which "Reform Bill" was inscribed. Near it in the window of Mr. Crawford's office was a transparency with a Thistle on the top, in the centre a Rose and a Shamrock occupying the two corners; the King, Lords, and Commons were joined into one by a waving line and a few "ones." The amount of the majority was placed in different positions to fill up space; immediately beneath were the words "*tria una juncta*" joined together by "one." The remainder of the space was occupied with the following expressions:—"The nobility and splendour of the throne; the honour, virtue, and renown of the nobles; the freedom, prosperity, and happiness of the people; the regeneration of the Constitution; in one word, reform insured by 'unit-y.' The King, the sailor King, the Constitutional King; William the Reformer for ever—hurra." In the window of Conway and Collins, jewellers, there was a very good likeness of a printing press, with the pressman removing from the tympan a hand-bill headed Reform; in a circle above that was the following couplet:—

"Aided by thee, O Art Divine, our race spurns the tyrants in or out of place."
 "The press is the fourth estate of the realm."

The most grandly illuminated house was that of Mr. Simpson, writer. In three windows of equal size were well-executed transparencies. In the one on the left was a cornucopia pouring out all the blessings necessary to sweeten the lot of a free nation, with the inscription—"Thanks to an honest Ministry and glorious 302." On the right was a huge scavenger's besom, with the words—"Good-bye to corruption, the Boroughmongers, and the whole 301"; and in the centre was a crown, with the words—"Hail, William the Reformer; immortal fame awaits thy name, thou patriot King." The house and warehouse of Mr. Pullar, Causeyside, was illuminated most tastefully. One ornament, a transparency, decked the middle window, with the words—"Reform, and by Grey we will have it." The centre part of the triple window of the artist's room was ornamented with a portrait of the King, surmounted by "Long live King William the Reformer," and beneath "Let liberty prevail and the fine arts flourish." In one of the windows was "Success to Lord Russell's labours." In the Turf Inn were two racers, one about a single neck ahead of the other, the front one mounted by Lord Russell, exclaiming—"The race is won," and Peel on the other, saying—"I have done my best," while the crowd near the winning-post were waving their hats and exclaiming—"Wha would ha'e thocht it?" The word "Freedom" was seen in a corner not far from the winning-post, and on the top of the post was the King, waving his hat to the victor and exclaiming—"The people

must have their rights." Opposite the Turf Inn, in a window of Mr. Robb's warehouse, was a cluster of Boroughmongers, represented by rubbish, and a great tall Reformer with a huge besom sweeping them out. In Mr. Yuill's window was a fine large beehive, surmounted by the words—"Turning out the drones"; and the smart little workers had turned them out with such rapidity that a cluster of them had accumulated nearly as high as the entrance of the hive. At the window of Mr. Stewart, teacher, New Town, a magic-lantern was fixed, which exhibited a great variety of figures, to the amusement of the spectators. The office of the Gas Company was illuminated with equal brilliancy and taste. They had a number of flexible tubes to carry the gas, and in one window these were made to twine neatly round a St. Andrew's Cross, in another window a display of fancy burners was shown, while in the centre was a crown, supported by a thistle, with the words—"God save King William the Fourth." The whole had an imposing appearance. On the lantern in front of the office were three inscriptions—"Let us have light, new light, and more light." In the Broomlands Reading-room was displayed a balloon beginning to ascend; the car was loaded with rotten burghs, corn laws, sinecures, and tithes, all in bags. From the netting of the balloon a number of ropes were suspended, and of these Wellington, Peel, Wetherall, and some others, had got hold, but away they went up into the air. While this balloon was taking the Boroughmongers up into the clouds, there was exhibited in a house on Renfrew Road a ship engaged exporting them by sea. The vessel's name was Corruption, as indicated by her colours; motto, "Where bound?—Oblivion"; "cargo, Boroughmongers"; and there they hung so as to appear uncertain whether they should jump overboard or go on the voyage. Others displayed paintings, busts, statues, stuffed birds, mirrors, evergreens, and flowers. The King, Earl Grey, the Ministry, and "the glorious majority" were everywhere lauded; but the Boroughmongers were dealt with in many very summary ways—some hanging by the neck, and others suspended in the middle of the street by lines extended from opposite windows. Two bands of music—the Paisley Amateur one of thirty-two and the Levern one of sixteen—perambulated the principal streets, preceded by banners and torch-bearers, playing airs connected with the word "Liberty." The starting tune at all the different places where they stopped was always "Up an' waur them a', Willie!" The weather was very favourable, and the turn-out of the inhabitants was immense, High Street from the Old Bridge to the head of Storie Street being at times one dense mass.

At this time active measures were taken by means of subscriptions to establish an instrumental band in the town, consisting of bugles, clarionets, horns, &c. The proposal originated with the Flute Club, who called a meeting of those favourable to the design, in the Philosophical Institution, on 19th April, when a committee was appointed to procure subscriptions. The proposal was afterwards successfully carried into execution.

In the House of Commons in Committee, on 19th April, an amendment was carried relating to the reduction of the number of English Members, which the Ministry deemed fatal to the Reform Bill, and shortly thereafter Parliament was dissolved. Great excitement followed throughout the whole country. The election of a Member of Parliament to represent Renfrewshire was fixed for Monday, the 9th May, and it was resolved that there should on that day be a grand procession from Paisley to Renfrew to hold a meeting there and vote an address to the King on the occasion of his dissolving Parliament in order to take the opinion of the people on the subject of the Reform Bill. This was perhaps the most imposing demonstration that ever took place in the county, and the enthusiasm was quite unprecedented. The place of assembling was St. James Street; and by half-past nine o'clock that street, from Love Street to Underwood Street, and even a good way down Caledonia Street, was one dense living mass, while floating over their heads were to be seen flags of all colours, sizes, and devices. At ten o'clock the procession started, in the following order:—J. C. Cunningham, preses of the Trades' Committee, rode in front to clear the way, and was followed by the local band. In front of the trades rode Mr. Murtrie, superintendent of police. The hammermen, masons, and slaters were preceded by the band from Bridgeton. The hammermen, in addition to an anvil and some other implements, had three flags. One of them bore the regular smiths' arms, the second had the motto "With hammer in hand we will support the King," the other "With hammer and hand we will beat out corruption." The masons had two flags—the one with Paisley County Buildings and some masonic devices; the other, painted expressly for the occasion, had two pillars on which an arch stood without the keystone, but supported by Grey and Russell. The motto on the top was—"The foundation-stone of Reform is laid," and beneath—"Ere long the building shall be finished." The slaters carried a ladder, with the inscription attached—"With the ladder of Reform we will mount above the Boroughmongers." One flag had on it—"Long live King William, the personal dispenser of the Boroughmongers," and on another—"With these tools we strip the house of corruption." The manufacturers were followed by the seven district parties of weavers, having a band of music and six flags accompanying each. Among the devices and mottoes were—"Reform prevents Revolution," "Stand fast and we will support you," "The genius of Scotland with the Reform Bill in her hand—Reform or ——" (the rest of the sentence was indicated by a sword in the other hand pointing to a band of Highlanders defiling from a mountain pass), "We are many and determined," "A reforming King, a united Ministry, and a determined people." Among a great variety of ornaments and devices were carried five Lochaber axes, nineteen spontoons, six stands of colours, four garland poles, nine garlands, twenty gorgets, seventy-five pink scarfs, and nineteen green scarfs. The soapboilers had the word "Reform," in gilt

letters on a black ground, placed in the front of their hats. The dyers had the Govan band ; on one of their flags was displayed the Scottish national coat-of-arms, surmounted by a crown-motto—"We will *dye* for the cause." The bakers had the Rutherglen band and two flags. The tailors had a band from Glasgow, and two very handsome flags. The cotton-spinners had one flag, and there was on it—

" 'Twas Royal William swept the house,
Then, Boroughmongers, why so crouse ?"

The flower-lashers, painters, clothlappers, pattern drawers, stationers, printers, and bookbinders had Parkholm band, and carried a number of flags. The wrights and turners had the Levern band, and carried three flags. The men, about 170 of them, were all well dressed—the masters with sashes and the men with belts of light blue ribbon. Each carried a six feet rod in his hand, on which was fixed a rosette of blue ribbon, and many of them had a neat little crown of shavings. They all had, besides, shoulder rosettes of ribbons. They were everywhere received with cheers. The coopers had a flute band and five flags. The ropemakers had on their flag a figure of the celebrated female, Joan of Arc ; motto, "Reform." The tanners had in their front ranks one of their number riding on an ass, and entwined behind him was a huge pair of bullock's horns, as representative of John Bull. On one side of the neck was—"May they tan our hides if we don't show our horns in defence of King William, Earl Grey, and Reform ;" on the other—

"Boroughmongers rode us long,
And pinch'd us sore on ilka side ;
But I'm on their back ; if they don't submit,
I'm now resolved to tan their hide."

The shoemakers had the Kilwinning band and three flags. Tobacco-spinners and cork-cutters had a flute band from Glasgow. On one of the flags was "Long live King William, the bloodless Reformer. We seek Reform, and we shall have it." There was also a very large number of boys, with flags in every variety of size and colour. The procession was joined on the south-side of the town by the party from Pollokshaws and Eastwood. About fifty of the respectable yeomen on Sir John Maxwell's estate appeared on horseback, all well dressed, carrying a number of beautiful flags and devices. The gardeners joined in the procession with those of the same trades from Pollokshaws and other places in the south. In addition to their flags, they carried a great variety of garlands, bouquets, and evergreen shrubs, and presented a cheerful and enlivening appearance. The route taken was up Moss Street to the Cross, along High Street, Wellmeadow Street, down West Street, along George Street, down Causeyside to foot of New Street, along Orchard Street, Bridge Street, a part of Abbey Street, Cotton Street, Gauze Street, and through Inle Street to Renfrew Road, near Wallneuk. Near this place a triumphal arch was erected, under which the procession passed. The road to Renfrew presented such

an appearance as, we believe, was never before witnessed. Throughout its whole length between the two towns it was, at one period, literally covered with pedestrians. The procession entered the extensive domains of Mr. Speirs, where the meeting was to be held. At four o'clock the election was over, and the gentlemen who were engaged at it marched into the field preceded by a band of music. The speakers from the hustings, erected by Mr. Speirs, in support of the address to the King, were Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Osburn, and Mr. John Thomson. The vast assemblage was also addressed by Sir M. S. Stewart, Mr. Patrick M. Stewart, Mr. John King, Mr. Wallace of Kelly, and Captain Houston Stewart. No part of the ceremony, for grand effect, could be compared to the appearance which the multitude presented in the park.

On the whole the procession was a splendid success. The day was fine, and the men forming the procession were, generally speaking, well dressed. All manifested a desire to be well pleased. The mottoes, while they breathed a spirit of liberty and independence, had, with few exceptions, no tincture of bitterness. The number who marched in the procession from Paisley alone was estimated at upwards of eight thousand. When the procession passed the Cross in the morning, there were thirty bands of music and 171 flags; three or four additional bands, and from thirty to forty flags must afterwards have been added. With respect to the whole number on the field, it was estimated that they would amount to between forty and fifty thousand. The last of the procession arrived in Paisley about half-past six o'clock. Excellent order and harmony were everywhere displayed.

As soon as the proceedings of the meeting in Mr. Speirs's policies were concluded, a number of gentlemen dined in the Black Bull Inn—Sir M. S. Stewart took the chair,—and was supported on the right by Sir John Maxwell and Mr. Speirs, and on the left by Sir D. K. Sandford and Sheriff Dunlop. Captain Stewart, R.N., acted as croupier, and was supported by Dr. Robert Patrick of Trearne, and Robert Orr, Esq. of Ralston.

On 4th May, at a special meeting, the Commissioners of Police voted a congratulatory address to the King on the late exercise of his prerogative in dissolving Parliament, for the purpose of ascertaining the sentiments of the people on the subject of reform. The Renfrewshire Political Union, at a meeting held in the West Relief Church on 3rd May, agreed to present an address somewhat similar. The Renfrewshire Agricultural Society also, on 26th May, transmitted a dutiful address to His Majesty, thanking him for the enlightened and patriotic support he had given to the great measure of reform by the dissolution of Parliament.

The first annual meeting of the Renfrewshire Political Union was held on the 4th July,—Sir John Maxwell presiding. On Mr. John Crawford being proposed as a member of Council, he stated that his political opinions should be known before proceeding to the vote; and he explained that he was a Reformer but no Radical, nor an

approver of universal suffrage, annual parliaments, or vote by ballot; he was also no Huntite. Mr. Wallace, in the conversation that followed, said he suspected there was some mistake about the meaning of the word Radical—it did not necessarily involve universal suffrage—the word meant “belonging to the root of anything”—and Radical Reform meant a rooting out of all abuses.¹

The great increase in the number of members returned to Parliament who were in favour of the Reform Bill, secured its easy passage by large majorities through all its different stages in the House of Commons. After the bill had passed the third reading in that House on 22nd September by the large majority of 109, as many people in Paisley had still strong doubts of the House of Lords agreeing to the bill, a public meeting was held in the church in St. James Street to address the King and to petition the Upper House on the urgent necessity of passing the Reform Bill. John Bell, Esq., Woodside, was called on to preside, and the resolutions proposed were supported by Mr. J. M. Bell, advocate, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. William Barr, and Mr. George Masson. Mr. Maxwell, yr. of Pollok, on being called on by the meeting, also addressed those present. The meeting was well attended. The Provost had been requested by a number of persons to call it, but he had declined to do so, as he thought it unnecessary. The progress of the Reform Bill in the House of Lords was watched throughout the country with feverish anxiety; and the Renfrewshire Political Union resolved, at a meeting held on the 7th October, that in the event of the Peers rejecting the bill, a great county meeting should immediately thereafter take place. On Monday evening, the 10th October, the startling intelligence having arrived that the House of Lords had on the previous Saturday morning rejected the bill by a majority of

¹ A Paisley friend writes to inform us that his brethren of the Political Union there are like to fly into each others' faces about the real meaning of the word Radical,—some affirming that Radical Reformer is a most respectable cognomen, and others maintaining that since the compound substantive has been employed to designate such men as Hunt and his party, it has become allocated, and should never henceforth be applied to any friend of consistency. The writer asks our opinion on the question, and hopes that our decision may pour oil on the troubled spirits of the Paisley politicians. All we can say on the subject is, that Johnson, Walker, and other lexicographers, give a very satisfactory description of the adjective “Radical,” but we have no authoritative explanation of the noun “Radical” on record. A Tory Dictionary and a Whig one are at present going through the press here; and our friends Oliver & Boyd have favoured us with a proof-sheet of both to look up the meaning of the dubious word. The Tory Dictionary explains it thus:—“*Radical*,” having the properties of a broom or besom—a sweeping propensity. *A Radical*, a political scavenger—a leveller of established institutions—a serf or mean person who pays taxes, and applies sweeping remedies to every abuse ennobled by time. *Radicalism*, a tendency to sedition, or incurable love for radical reform—in pathology, Radicalism is a non-epidemic disease, vulgarly called Huntism. The Whig Dictionary gives its definition thus:—*Radical*, the preservative principle of animal and vegetable substances. *A Radical*—a patriot, a man of sound understanding, a lover of justice and hater of iniquity. *Radicalism*, the essence of truth and purity—the love of reforming abuses in church and state (*Scotsman Newspaper*, July, 1831).

41, a meeting of merchants, manufacturers, and others was immediately held, when it was agreed to present a requisition to the Provost to call a public meeting. This he agreed to do, and on the following forenoon placards were circulated calling a meeting, to be held in the Old Low Church the same afternoon at three o'clock. At that hour the church was greatly crowded, while parties from different parts of the town, with flags and music, continued to arrive in such numbers, that it was resolved to adjourn to the churchyard, where, notwithstanding the almost continuous rain, the business was transacted. There were ten flags placed round the slightly-raised place on which the committee and speakers stood. As the Provost did not appear to preside, Mr. A. H. Simpson, writer, was called on to do so. After some spirited speeches had been delivered, the meeting resolved to address the King to the effect that no plan of Parliamentary reform less extensive than that proposed in the Reform Bill would give satisfaction; that, having perfect confidence in the present Ministry, His Majesty should retain them; that His Majesty should exercise his Royal prerogative by creating Peers to secure the passing of the bill, and that the opposition to its passage had been injurious to the commercial interests of the country. The speakers, besides the chairman, were Mr. A. Yuill, Mr. D. Murray, Dr. Henning, Mr. W. Aitken, Mr. J. Osborne, and Mr. J. Thomson. Another great public meeting, called by the Justices of Peace and others, was held in a field on the south side of the Canal, east from Camphill. Sir John Maxwell, on the motion of Mr. Speirs of Elderslie, was called to the chair. The speakers were, besides the chairman, Mr. J. M. Bell, advocate, Mr. Wallace of Kelly, Mr. John Maxwell, yr. of Pollok, Mr. Alexander Speirs, yr. of Elderslie, Mr. Bontine of Ardoch, Mr. James Fleming, Mr. M'Kerrell, an avowed candidate for the representation of Paisley, Mr. J. Henderson, Mr. J. Barr, Mr. George Masson, and Mr. Collins. The resolutions agreed to were in effect similar to those carried in the Old Low Churchyard. There were about thirty flags of various descriptions near the hustings, and a number of bands of music. Among the flags was a fine new one belonging to the First Ward, of blue silk, with the Paisley coat-of-arms emblazoned on it. The number of persons estimated to have been present at the meeting was about 40,000.

The Reform Bill was again introduced in the following session of Parliament, and, after passing successfully through the House of Commons, was read a second time in the House of Lords on 7th May. But the Ministry were defeated in Committee. Earl Grey and his colleagues at once tendered their resignation, which the King accepted. At this sudden change of affairs, when it was thought the Reform Bill was progressing favourably through the House of Lords, the excitement in the country became most intense. It became even more so when it was known that the King had desired the Duke of Wellington to form a new Ministry. On the arrival of this intelligence by the London mail on Friday afternoon, the 11th

May, the committee who had been appointed to watch the progress of the Reform Bill called a public meeting, to be held at Mr. Patison's mound at the race-course, on the following day at one o'clock. The meeting was attended by about 4000 persons, among whom were a number of musicians. Two flags and a banner were planted beside the speakers. The edge of the banner was black, and it bore the inscription—"Trust not in princes. We'll die our rights maintaining." Mr. A. H. Simpson was called on to preside. Many stirring and indignant speeches were delivered in support of the resolutions, which were, first, to thank Earl Grey for standing firm to his principles, and, second, to petition the House of Commons to stop the supplies. When the business was finished, the chairman recommended all to go home in peace. The committee and a number of gentlemen, with the flag in front, marched to the town, followed by the greater part of those who attended the meeting. Perfect order and regularity prevailed. On Monday afternoon following, the Paisley band of music paraded the streets, preceded by a large standard, carried by two men, on which was inscribed the following notice :—"An extraordinary meeting of the Renfrewshire Political Union, and of all those who are ready to join it, will be held at Mr. Patison's mound this evening at six o'clock." By that hour a dense multitude had assembled in front of the mound, and parties were to be seen advancing from every direction. Some of the districts had flags, and one party had a small standard on which was inscribed—"United we stand; divided we fall." The band on approaching no longer played the popular air of "Up and waur them a', Willie"; but the people came forward with solemn step to Handel's "Dead March." On two flags belonging to Sneddon district the portrait of His Majesty was painted with the head reversed, and, a fire having been prepared, they were committed to the flames amidst the cheers and execrations of the meeting. A crimson flag shared the same fate as the two others. Some vigorous speeches were delivered by those who proposed and supported the resolutions, which condemned the advisers behind the Throne, whose machinations had led to such calamitous results, and who deserved to be impeached as traitors to the country. The meeting also deplored the return of the Duke of Wellington to power, as the upholder of everything that was inimical to the rights and welfare of the people and the certain introducer of military despotism or of violent revolution. After the business was over, the meeting marched to the town, preceded by the band of music and by drums and fifes. On reaching the Cross, the band having played "Blue bonnets over the border," the assemblage separated in peace and quietness.

A great county meeting was also held upon the lawn at Elderslie House on Saturday, 19th May. Processions, composed of people from nearly all the towns in Renfrewshire, marched to Renfrew to attend this meeting. The various bodies which had expressed their intention to walk from Paisley to Renfrew mustered in St. James

Street ; and having taken their stations according to appointment, began to march about half-past eleven o'clock. The Superintendent of Police as grand marshal, assisted by a deputy-marshal, led the van. Next to them was a very effective band of music, seated on a van drawn by four horses. These were followed by sixty-four men on horseback, walking two and two. The pedestrians, headed by the manufacturers, followed in order four and four. Of flags and banners of every kind there were 103. The number of persons in the procession was about 2500. There were eighteen bands of music of different degrees of efficiency, besides one mounted and a few pedestrian pipers. The line of march was similar to that of the previous year, and at Wallneuk a handsome triumphal arch was erected for the procession to pass under. The various parties from the different towns of the county arrived at the field about two o'clock. Among them was a large body from Greenock, headed by some of the Magistrates, and a party of about 2000 pedestrians and 140 horses from Pollokshaws, headed by Sir John Maxwell, the provost of that town, and some of the masters of public works. In the field, a short distance from the mansion-house, hustings were erected, on which were ranged a number of county gentlemen who intended to speak on the occasion, the members of various political committees, the reporters for the press, some delegates of the trades, and several ladies of distinction. Mr. Speirs of Elderslie was called on to preside ; and the other speakers were John Maxwell, Esq., yr. of Pollok, Sir John Maxwell, Robert Orr, Esq. of Ralston, Mr. Wallace of Kelly, Mr. M'Alister, Lochwinnoch, Alexander Speirs, Esq., yr. of Elderslie, Mr. William Barr, Mr. R. C. Bontine, Mr. Park, Renfrew, Mr. Stewart of Stewarthall, Mr. Dunlop of Arthurlie, Mr. James Fleming, Mr. Thomson, Mr. Fraser, Johnstone, Mr. James Lambert, Barrhead, Mr. William Aitken, Mr. Leitch, Pollokshaws, Sir Daniel K. Sandford, Mr. David Ritchie. The principal resolutions carried advocated a creation of Liberal Peers in favour of Reform, and the withholding of all supplies until the Reform Bills were carried. The number of individuals in the field, it was estimated, would be from 25,000 to 30,000. Of flags and banners there were about 170, and among the mottoes on them were "Death or Liberty," "The whole Bill or more than the Bill," "Boroughmongers on their Last Legs," "Going, Going, Gone," "The Majority of the People," "A nation's degradation is not its forced subjection but its tame submission to misrule," "Scotland expects every man to do his duty," "Reformers a'thegether draw and break the Boroughmongers law," "Now or never." In front of the hustings a cap of liberty was stuck on a pole, with the inscription, "The Rights of Man," and near it was the representation of a human hand cut off at the wrist by a bloody sword, with the motto, "The last shift, the only cure." There were very few black flags, and only one tri-colour. The flag borne by the Covenanters at the battle of Drumclog was also on the field. The spectacle on the field was altogether very imposing. By five

o'clock the last of the parties marched out of the field to the tune of "Scots wha ha'e," and between six and seven o'clock the procession arrived at Paisley and afterwards broke up.¹

Similar indignation meetings were held throughout the whole country, and the majority of the people were in a most dissatisfied and indignant mood at the new turn of affairs regarding the Reform Bill. Fortunately Wellington failed to form a new ministry, and the King was under the necessity of recalling Earl Grey along with his former colleagues. They agreed to be reinstated on the understanding that it would be in their power to create a sufficient number of new Peers to enable them to carry the Reform Bill through the House of Lords. The Scotch Bill, after being introduced into Parliament, passed rapidly through both Houses with little opposition, and received the Royal assent on 17th July. In anticipation of this important measure becoming the law of the land, a meeting of the future electors of Paisley was held in the Church, St. James Street, on 5th July, to consider the propriety of requesting a proper person to represent Paisley in Parliament, and to determine what measures should be adopted in a reformed Parliament for the good of the country. A requisition, signed by four hundred of the future electors, had been presented to the Provost to call this meeting, but he declined to do so. Robert Orr, Esq. of Ralston, was called upon to preside. The meeting agreed to a series of eight pledges that a candidate should give before being elected. Stated shortly they were—the repeal of septennial and the re-establishment of triennial parliaments; the total abolition of all monopolies and restrictions on trade, particularly the corn laws, and all other laws affecting the importation of human food; the setting free of the trade with India and China, and the abolition of the bank monopoly; the repeal of assessed taxes, and all taxes on knowledge or affecting articles of health and cleanliness, and also the abolition of all unnecessary offices and unmerited pensions; the procuring of a revision of the manner in which laws are administered, so as to secure cheap and expeditious justice; the insisting on the speedy abolition of colonial slavery; the abolition of the law of entail, and the placing of the heritable property of persons dying intestate on a similar footing with movable property. But the last pledge was the most serious and degrading one, viz., "That I will, at all times, and in all things, act in my capacity of representative conformably to the wishes of my constituents, deliberately expressed; and if I shall at any time not feel inclined to do so, I shall, at their request, resign to them the trust committed to me." The meeting further resolved

¹ On 4th June, Mr. Speirs of Elderslie was entertained by the Reformers at a public dinner in the Tontine Inn, Paisley—Mr. Robert Bisset in the chair—and presented with a large silver medal, in token of their respect for his public-spirited conduct in granting the Reformers of Renfrewshire, upon several occasions, a place to hold their public meetings. The first toast on that occasion was "The people the source of all legitimate power," and the second "The King."

that Sir John Maxwell was eminently qualified to become a candidate for the representation of Paisley. On the following day Sir John Maxwell published an address to the prospective electors of Paisley, agreeing to become a candidate to represent them in Parliament. John M'Kerrell, Esq. of Hillhouse, who had offered his services as far back as 1st October, 1831, was also a candidate. On the 8th of this month a meeting of the friends of Sir John Maxwell was held in the Court Hall. Robert Orr, Esq. of Ralston, who was called on to preside, stated that the committee appointed at last meeting had waited upon Sir John, who, in the most cordial manner accepted all their pledges as the rule of his conduct. Arrangements were made to institute a street canvass of the electors in order to secure Sir John Maxwell's return.

According to arrangements made some time previously, the jubilee to celebrate the passing of the Reform Bill took place on the 23rd September. The ceremony consisted of a procession through several streets in the town, and afterwards a public meeting in County Square. The number of those who joined in the procession was under fifteen hundred. There were twelve bands of music, forty-nine flags, and a variety of devices of different descriptions. At the meeting in County Square, Mr. John Dunlop was called to the chair; and resolutions were passed congratulatory of the passing of the Reform Bill, and other measures were referred to that should engage the attention of the first reformed parliament. In the afternoon there was also a jubilee dinner in the large hall of the Renfrewshire Tontine. It was well attended, there being 250 present, and the price of the ticket was 2s. 6d. C. G. Bontine of Ardoch was in the chair. The first toast was "The King, and may he never forget that he derives all his power from the people." The second toast was "The people, from whom all power is derived." The proposers of the toasts, besides those of the chairman, were Mr. Wallace of Kelly, Rev. Mr. Baird, Mr. William Aitken, Mr. George Gardner, Mr. Speirs, Mr. David Murray, Mr. John Mure, Mr. William Barr, Mr. J. M. Bell, Sir John Maxwell, Mr. Robert Muir, and Mr. John M'Kerrell. The dinner proceedings were prolonged till midnight, and passed off very well.

The contest between Sir John Maxwell and Mr. M'Kerrell for the representation of Paisley was generally conducted in a most becoming manner, being free from the political acerbities displayed in many other places. One great cause for this state of matters was the very general unanimity of both electors and non-electors in favour of Sir John Maxwell. The political feeling manifested in the county contest was very different. A week before the election came on, the Sheriff of the County and the Provost and Magistrates of Paisley deemed it their duty to issue a proclamation, calling "upon the respectable inhabitants of Paisley and of the county at large, whatever be their political bias, to do their utmost, by influence and example, to discountenance and prevent all proceedings which may embitter or exasperate political hostility, and thereby lead to

violence and riot. On such occasions of excitement the display of ensigns and badges of political partizanship, or pageants and processions with flags and music, were dangerous follies, which may speedily lead to end in crimes ; but if resorted to during the period of polling, they will receive and deserve a worse character, and will, with reason, be complained of as devices expressly calculated for intimidation in order to destroy freedom of election, to the imminent hazard of the public peace."

The nomination of the candidates for the representation of the town took place on hustings erected in front of the County Buildings, on Monday, 16th December. Sir John Maxwell was proposed by Mr. Robert Orr of Ralston, and seconded by Mr. William Barr, writer. After Sir John Maxwell had addressed those present, Mr. M'Kerrell was proposed by Mr. Alexander Borland, and seconded by Mr. John Roxburgh. Mr. M'Kerrell addressed the assemblage. Mr. John King, advocate, who had been canvassing the electors for three or four months, attempted to speak about the slave trade, but the meeting would not listen to him. The show of hands was vastly in favour of Sir John Maxwell ; but Mr. M'Kerrell's friends demanded a poll, which the Sheriff fixed to take place on Wednesday and Thursday following, the 18th and 19th December. The ceremony being altogether new, an immense assemblage surrounded the hustings. On Wednesday, the polling proceeded with the greatest regularity and dispatch. Sir John Maxwell shot ahead with great rapidity at the outset, and continued rapidly to distance his competitor till the close. By twelve o'clock one half of the whole voters had declared themselves in his favour, and Mr. M'Kerrell's friends came to the resolution that they should retire from the contest. When the poll-books were opened on the Friday following, it was found that 777 had voted for Sir John Maxwell, and 180 for Mr. M'Kerrell, thus giving a majority of 587 for the former. On the afternoon of that day a public dinner was given to Mr. M'Kerrell by a party of his friends. Although the meeting was got up at a few hours' notice, the large ball-room in the Saracen's Head Inn was unable to contain the number that applied for tickets. The chair was filled by Mr. Alexander Borland, and Mr. Robert Hannah acted as croupier.

The first Reformed Parliament assembled early in February, 1833, and on the 14th of that month Mr. Hume's motion for the abolition of sinecures did not receive the support of the Member for Paisley. This procedure gave great offence to many of those who voted for him. He was written to on the subject by the Political Union, and a requisition, signed by 148 electors, was presented to the Provost "to convene a public meeting of the electors for the purpose of choosing a committee of their number to correspond with the representative of this town in Parliament regarding any instructions necessary for him as to the course he should pursue on such matters, either of a national or local character, as they may consider of so much importance as to require the inter-

ference of his constituents." It was also intended that this "meeting should take into consideration the bill then before Parliament for the coercion of Ireland." As Provost Orr declined to call the meeting, it was called by the requisitionists, and was held in the West Relief Church on the 5th March. Mr. Robert Muir, late chairman of Sir John Maxwell's committee, was called on to preside. After much discussion, in which the conduct of Sir John Maxwell was very severely condemned by nearly all the speakers, a committee consisting of three persons from each of the wards was appointed to form a committee of correspondence with the representative of the town. An amendment that, having broken his pledges, he should be called upon to resign, was lost. The meeting also agreed to petition against the Irish Coercion Bill. The Political Union petitioned against the Irish Coercion Bill proposed by the Government, and requested Sir John Maxwell to present the petition. At a meeting of that body held on the 4th of March, a letter from the Member was read, stating "I fairly own that I cannot consistently support the prayer of it. I am perfectly convinced of the necessity of some strong measure to put a stop to the murders, &c., and I have formed my opinion from the statements of the Repealers themselves." This letter excited general disapprobation in the meeting, and several members expressed their dissatisfaction at Sir John's conduct. The following motion was unanimously agreed to:—"That the meeting feels much disappointed at the course which Sir John Maxwell has pursued since he went to Parliament, and strongly and decidedly disapprove of his vote against Mr. Hume's motion for abolishing sinecures, and of his purpose of supporting the Irish Coercion Bill, both of which are at variance with his previously-expressed political sentiments." A public meeting was held on the 8th April, in the church, St. James Street, to bring under review the correspondence between the committee of the constituents and Sir John Maxwell regarding his refusing to present and support the petition against the Irish Coercion Bill. Mr. Robert Muir, merchant, was called to the chair. Resolutions strongly condemnatory of Sir John's conduct were agreed to by the meeting, as being contrary to the pledges he had given. No further conflicting opinions of a serious nature arose between the honourable baronet and his constituents during the remainder of the session. But after the meeting of Parliament in the following year, Sir John, in a kindly letter dated 21st February, 1834, addressed to Provost Hardie, intimated his resolution to resign his seat. Among other things in that letter, he stated—"I gave an assiduous attention to every debate, and voted on every question conscientiously—sometimes with the Ministers, sometimes against them, but always to the best of my judgment. I came in an independent man, I go out the same; and while I freely forgive those who rashly condemned me, I most truly and gratefully acknowledge the kindness of all my friends, and continue to desire as sincerely as ever the individual happiness, the liberty, the peace,

and the prosperity of the inhabitants of Paisley." Sir John Maxwell died 31st July, 1844.

The candidates who at once came forward to represent Paisley in Parliament were Sir D. Keyte Sandford, Professor of Greek in Glasgow University ; Mr. John Douglas, writer, Glasgow ; Captain James Edward Gordon, R.N., residing in Morayshire ; and Mr. John Crawford, London. As the political opinions of Mr. Douglas and Mr. Crawford were much alike, they and their supporters agreed that the householders in a joint canvass should decide who should retire from the contest. This canvass took place on the 18th March, when 2675 householders were in favour of Mr. Crawford, and 2630 were in favour of Mr. Douglas, and he, having a smaller number of supporters, retired. Both of these gentlemen took most freely all the pledges which brought the former representative into trouble, but Captain Gordon and Sir Daniel declined to do so, the latter, however, promising that if at the end of a session, when giving an account of his Parliamentary services, a majority of the electors should require his resignation, he would comply. The candidates were nominated on Wednesday, 19th March. Mr. Crawford was proposed by Mr. C. J. Kennedy, and seconded by Mr. Bell of Woodside. Captain Gordon was proposed by Mr. William Lowndes, and seconded by Mr. William Fulton. Sir Daniel K. Sandford was proposed by Mr. William Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. Joseph Twigg. The show of hands was in favour of Mr. Crawford ; but a poll being demanded, it was fixed to take place on Friday and Saturday, the 21st and 22nd March—two days of exciting interest. At the close of the poll, the numbers were declared as follows :—

Sir D. K. Sandford,	...	...	...	542
Mr. Crawford,	...	...	...	509
Captain Gordon,	...	...	...	29

Shortly after the election was over, there was published, in pamphlet form, "The Elector's Guide," being a list of the constituency of Paisley who polled at the election of a member of Parliament in 1834, and of those voters who did not exercise the franchise.

Sir D. K. Sandford's representation of Paisley in Parliament was of very short duration. In a letter dated 2nd September in that year, addressed to the electors of Paisley, he stated, "with deep regret I find myself compelled to announce that it will not be in my power to undertake in another Session of Parliament the honourable duties which your flattering choice so lately imposed upon me. The state of my health, and my certain conviction that it would unfit me for discharging the functions of a legislator with the assiduity and vigour justly required in the representation of a great community, form my sole reasons for breaking a tie by which I had fondly hoped to be long connected with the citizens of Paisley."

The election of another representative took place on the 14th January, 1835. The candidates were Mr. Horatio Ross of Rossie, and Mr. Speirs, cotton-spinner, Culcreuch. The former was proposed by Mr. Alexander Carlile, and seconded by Mr. Robert

Cochran, late merchant; and the latter was proposed by Mr. Robert Orr, Lylesland, and seconded by Mr. Campbell Snodgrass, Thornhill. The show of hands was greatly in favour of Mr. Speirs; but as a poll was demanded on the part of Mr. Ross's friends, the Sheriff fixed the polling to take place on Friday and Saturday, the 16th and 17th. On the first day 1134 voted for Mr. Speirs, and 477 for Mr. Ross. The poll, however, did not require to be opened on the second day, as Mr. Ross consented to its final close on the first day. At this election intimidation prevailed to a considerable extent against the supporters of Mr. Ross.¹

Mr. A. G. Speirs, like his predecessor, Sir D. K. Sandford, did not long continue to represent Paisley in Parliament. On the 1st March, 1836, the Provost received a letter from Mr. Speirs, intimating that the necessity of giving greater attention to his personal business, precluded him from continuing his parliamentary duties, and that he had, therefore, applied for the Chiltern Hundreds. Two candidates came forward at once, and offered their services to represent the town in Parliament,—Mr. Archibald Hastie, merchant, London, a native of Paisley, and Mr. James Ayton, advocate, Edinburgh. Monday, 14th March, was the day appointed by the Sheriff for the nomination of candidates. Mr. Ayton was proposed by Provost Hardie, and seconded by Mr. Hugh M'Farlane. Mr. Hastie was proposed by Mr. Robert Orr, Lylesland, and seconded by Mr. William Brown, Egypt Park. The show of hands was decidedly in favour of Mr. Ayton; but as a poll was demanded, it was fixed to take place on Wednesday the 16th. When the poll-books were opened on Thursday by the Sheriff, the votes were declared to be—

For Mr. Hastie,	...	...	...	680
For Mr. Ayton,	...	...	...	529
Majority for Mr. Hastie,	...	...	—	151 ²

¹ Various meetings of non-electors were held in different districts for the avowed purpose of coercing electors, and of constraining them to vote for the popular candidate. Resolutions were drawn up and printed with this object in view, and numerous committees waited on the electors in order to bring them over to the popular candidate. The following are the resolutions appended to an address from one of the districts:—(1) "That we shall hold those electors who refuse to vote for the Liberal candidate, or who will give their vote to any candidate in favour of a Tory administration, as enemies to the common weal, and be kept in remembrance for time coming; and further, that we shall withhold our support from all the electors who have voted for an illiberal candidate. (2) That a committee be appointed, consisting of three men from each street in the district, to call on those electors that are within the sphere of our influence, for the purpose of persuading them to vote for the Liberal candidate, Mr. Speirs. (3) That every support shall be given those electors who will vote agreeably to the Liberal interest. (4) That we will endeavour to get a list of those electors who have voted for the Liberal candidate; and also a list of those who have not; and that the same shall be published and circulated among the non-electors, that they may see who are their friends. (5) That the non-electors in said district shall subscribe the resolutions agreed to at this meeting."—Paisley, 13th Jan., 1835.

² At this time there was published in pamphlet form a list of the electors who voted for Mr. Hastie and Mr. Ayton, distinguishing the supporters of Mr. Speirs and Mr. Ross.

Both the candidates, during the contest, agreed in writing to all the pledges that were submitted to them. The seventh pledge was—"That at the end of every session he shall appear before his constituents, at a public meeting properly intimated, and give an account of his conduct in Parliament during the session, and if then required to do so by a majority of the constituency, he shall at once resign his Parliamentary trust into their hands." With admirable tact, Mr. Hastie promised a great deal more than they asked, knowing well that a majority of the electors could never be obtained to demand of him the doing of any such thing. His answer was—"Not only am I willing to comply with this resolution, but I go further. I shall feel it my duty at any time, either during session or vacation, to present myself before the constituency when called on so to do."

In the summer of 1831 cholera morbus, after destroying many lives in India, travelled to the north-west of Europe. In Hamburg that dreaded malady made considerable havoc among the population, and in October in that year it was brought across by some vessels to Sunderland. It excited, not without good cause, great alarm throughout the whole country, and precautions were taken in every village and town to avert this pestilence, or at anyrate to diminish its virulence. In Paisley measures were adopted to establish, under the powers of the Privy Council, a Board of Health. The first meeting to consider the precautions necessary to be adopted for preventing the introduction and spread of cholera morbus was held on the 12th November, 1831, and was attended by the Magistrates, the Sheriff-Substitute, and a committee of the medical practitioners. The meeting agreed to the following highly sensible and business-like resolutions:—

"1st. That an *interim* Board of Health for Paisley and its suburbs within the bounds of police, be now established, consisting of the Magistrates of Paisley, the Sheriff-Substitute, the ministers of the town and Abbey Parishes, and a committee of three medical practitioners, to be nominated by themselves, and of the inhabitants after-named, viz.:—Mr. Farquharson, Mr. Bissland, Mr. William Sharp, and Mr. William Orr. One of the Medical Committee will have the charge of corresponding with the Board of Health in London.

"2nd. That the town and suburbs, for the purposes of health, be divided into districts, — each police ward forming a district, — and the Commissioners of Police of these wards to be the District Committee, in conjunction with one medical practitioner at least for each ward. The business of the committees will be to watch over the state of health in the several wards and to give the earliest information of everything material to the Board, and to carry into effect such measures as the Board will adopt.

"3rd. That in the meantime it is most earnestly recommended

that the committee for each ward cause speedy and efficacious means to be taken for promoting cleanliness, by the removal of dunghills of unnecessary size, all other impurities, and stagnant water from closes and from behind houses, and to cause the interior of houses to be cleaned and washed with lime, soap, lees, or other proper fluid, and to secure proper ventilation, especially in small crowded apartments.

"4th. That proclamation be immediately published by the Magistracy, calculated to give effect to the important object in view.

"5th. That a fund be raised by subscription for defraying any contingent expenses which may be found necessary, and for which there is no other available fund.

"6th. That a copy of these resolutions be communicated to each of the Boards of Police of the town and suburbs, respectfully calling for their prompt co-operation. The medical gentlemen will be glad to hold communication with a meeting of the whole Commissioners of Police for the burgh and suburbs, on notice being given by the Commissioners of the time and place of such meeting to Dr. Kerr.

"7th. Mr. Gavin Lang is named secretary of the Board."

The second meeting of the Board was held on 12th December, and nominated Dr. M'Kinlay to correspond with the Board in London. The meeting also declared the Board to be permanent, the names of the members, including those added at this time, being as follows:—Alexander Campbell, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute; Provost Gilmour; Bailies Lymburn, Buchanan, Hart; Rev. Dr. Burns; Rev. Messrs. Geddes, Begg, M'Nair, Brewster, Smart, M'Dermid, and Symington; Doctors M'Kechie, Kerr, M'Kinlay, Wylie, Rodman; Messrs. Farquharson, Bissland, Sharp, and Orr. Provost Gilmour was appointed chairman of the Board.

At a meeting of the Board held on 21st December, a revised draft of an address to the inhabitants was read and approved of, and 1000 copies were ordered to be printed and circulated among the inhabitants.¹

1 "BOARD OF HEALTH—GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

"*Visitors.*—1. Visitors are to inspect and report on all nuisances or other matters connected with the health of the inhabitants of their respective subdivisions; and they ought to keep small books for engrossing the substance of what is reported, and make renewed complaints when grievances are not attended to. 2. Their attention should not only be directed to what is objectionable out of doors, but also to the interior of houses, and the condition, as to cleanliness and comfort, of the inmates. 3. Cases of cholera, with the general health of the quarter, should be regularly noticed. 4. Visitors are to order any thing likely to engender disease to be removed or remedied immediately, under certification that the pains of law will be enforced against the parties who fail to comply. 5. Visitors should specify in their reports the means necessary, and the parties liable, to remove any ground of complaint. 6. Visitors will instruct the people whom they visit as to the method of applying for medicines and other supplies, as well as medical aid, and give every information and advice in their power to the Fumigating and Cleansing Committee of the Central Board.

A public meeting of the inhabitants—Provost Gilmour presiding—was held in the Court-hall on 27th January, 1832, for the purpose of promoting means for defraying the expenses which may be necessary in endeavouring to arrest or mitigate the fatal progress of cholera; and in particular for bringing within the reach of the working-classes of the inhabitants the means necessary for domestic cleanliness, and whatever other preventives and remedies may be found essential to alleviate the sufferings of the poor and those diseased. Mr. William Bissland was appointed treasurer to this fund. At the meeting immediately thereafter, £579 8s. was subscribed by 120 of the inhabitants.

On 26th January a proclamation was issued by the Sheriff of Renfrewshire and the Provost and other Magistrates of Paisley, prohibiting all public begging, as there was reason to fear that disease might be communicated by vagrants passing from place to place. And it was recommended to the inhabitants to give nothing to vagrant beggars. Two days afterwards the same authority issued a proclamation, strictly ordering and enjoining the whole inhabitants of the town and suburbs of Paisley, in the present emergency, to give immediate obedience to the previous proclamation respecting the means of cleanliness, and particularly with regard to the accumulation of putrid matter and the prevention and removal of stagnant pools in midden-steads, under certification that the pains of law would be rigorously enforced against those who disobeyed or neglected this warning. Hollows in midden-steads which have no drain should be filled up with furnace ashes, or otherwise, to the level of the adjacent ground.

As cases of malignant cholera began to occur in places near to Paisley, the Board of Health were most vigorous and energetic in completing their arrangements against its appearance in town. Soup kitchens, under the management of the Relief Committee for the Unemployed, were established in different parts of the town to supply the poor with soup; it was fixed that a Hospital should be erected at the Infirmary, with the consent of the Directors; in the

7. Visitors must forward their reports to the chairmen of their respective subdivisions once a week at least.

“Chairmen of Subdivisions.—1. Each chairman will see that the visitors within his bounds inspect and report regularly, and he will procure and forward their reports to the convener of his ward. This must be done at least every Tuesday evening, and oftener as occasion may require. 2. The chairman to convene and preside at all meetings of the visitors of his subdivision.

“Supplies to be Granted.—1. No supplies of clothing or materials for washing will be granted except upon the certificate of the chairman of the subdivision in which the applicant resides, and he is only to grant it after he and at least three visitors have investigated the case, and the poor must be told to apply only through their respective visitors. 2. Medicines are to be given only on the certificates of one or other of the medical advisers attached to the ward.

“N.B.—Visitors should impress it on the minds of the poor that their preservation will greatly depend on their own scrupulous observance of personal and domestic cleanliness, and on their instant application for medical aid on feeling any of the first symptoms of cholera.”

meantime Hutchison's Charity School was fitted up as a temporary hospital, the scholars being accommodated in the Presbytery House, and a board of three medical practitioners in the town was appointed to attend to the patients in it; depots were provided—the central one being in Christie's Terrace—for supplying to the poor medicines, flannel for bed-gowns, shirts, slips, rollers, &c., and flasks, jars of various sizes and shapes, and other requisites for the application of heat to persons suffering from the disease, and also with materials for the purposes of cleansing and fumigating; properly qualified nurses, both male and female, were appointed either to act in the Hospital, or to attend to the poor in their own houses. The Board also issued to the inhabitants a series of precautionary instructions prepared by the medical practitioners, which all should follow.¹ On 28th January the Board agreed that they should not

¹ "BOARD OF HEALTH.—In consequence of the near approach of Spasmodic Cholera, the Board of Health now issue the following instructions, in addition to the precautionary measures formerly recommended:—This violent disease being more under the control of medicine at its commencement than in any future stage, the instant that a person is attacked medical assistance ought to be procured; but that no time may be lost, the following summary of the early symptoms and treatment is given:—

"*Symptoms.*—The first symptoms generally are languor, feebleness of the limbs, uncomfortable feelings throughout the body, loss of appetite, slight headache, giddiness and ringing in the ears, pain at the pit of the stomach, a sense of tightness and commotion in the bowels, followed by looseness and an inclination to vomit; the symptoms more peculiarly belonging to cholera now gradually make their appearance. The calls to stool are sudden, and the discharges at first consist of the natural contents of the bowels, in a liquid state, and passed with griping pains; in a short time these become much more copious, and consist of a fluid like thin gruel or rice water. Coldness, beginning at the extremities, and gradually extending over the trunk of the body, ensues; spasmodic twitches or cramps in the limbs and body soon follow. If the disease be not now checked, a more alarming train of symptoms comes on; the board, however, think it unnecessary to detail these, as it is presumed, that before the disease can have arrived at this stage, medical assistance has been obtained.

"*Treatment.*—Should cholera become prevalent in town, no case of purging ought to be neglected, but checked as soon as possible by proper applications. As soon as a person becomes affected with the disease, he ought to be suitably attired with flannel next the skin, laid into a warm bed, and have a warm flannel roller applied round the belly. The heat of the body should be kept up by the application of bottles, jars, or tin cases filled with hot water, warm bricks, bags of hot salt, bran, &c. If purging be present, thirty drops of laudanum, or one grain of opium ought to be given, and if the looseness do not cease within an hour, the same dose may be repeated. If the stools are like thin gruel or rice water, or the above measures seem to fail, an emetic of one or two tea-spoonfuls of mustard, with double that quantity of common salt diffused in two or three gills of warm water may be administered, and if coldness or cramps of the limbs be present, recourse may be had to friction with Spirit of Turpentine, Spirit of Hartshorn, or Tincture of Capsicum.

"The board would have entered into further details, but being convinced that the treatment of every stage of this dreadful malady requires accurate discrimination, they would once more earnestly impress upon the public the absolute necessity of early application for medical assistance.—Depots of medicine will be established in various parts of the town for the use of the poorer classes, but as cases of the disease frequently occur during the night, families are recommended to have at hand some powdered Mustard, Spirit of Turpentine,

only meet stately on Wednesday evenings at seven o'clock, but that it should be understood among themselves that they severally, according to their convenience, call at the secretary's office at very short intervals to receive intelligence, in order that, in case of any emergency a general meeting might be immediately called.

As arranged, the number of members at the Board was increased by the subscribers to the fund in the different wards electing a representative. Those chosen in this way were — Messrs. A. H. Simpson, Alexander Carlile, John Fleming, William Reid, John Henderson, John Dunlop, Peter Pollock, James M'Arthur, John Biggar, David Ritchie, Thomas Kerr, and William Langmuir.

On the 7th February the Board intimated, by placards circulated throughout the town, that they were desirous to provide clothing for the poor, and that they had opened a depot in Christie's Buildings, where articles of clothing (old or new) for men, women, and children would be thankfully received; and that a person authorised by the Board would wait upon families in the town and neighbourhood for donations of this description.

In the first week of February several persons were attacked with spasmodic cholera, and death in many cases followed, in the towns of Musselburgh, Tranent, Haddington, Prestonpans, and Kirkintilloch. On the 13th of this month Dr. M'Kinlay intimated to the Board that a man residing at No. — New Sneddon Street had been attacked with cholera. His name was Murdoch Galbreath, a hawker, and he had not been visiting any of the infected places. He died on the following day. The next death was that of Mrs. Sunter, also in that street; and the third, Edward Paterson, warper, living in Blacklaw Lane, who was taken to the hospital in Oakshaw and died on the following day. During the first four days from the appearance of the cholera eighteen persons were attacked, and nine of them died. From this time onwards for a few months there were weekly upwards of thirty new cases of cholera. At this time the Board authorised the printing and circulation of 1000 copies of brief directions on the subject of cholera, recommended by Dr. Arthur, the medical gentleman sent to Glasgow by the Government.

On the 18th February the Magistrates intimated, by placards circulated throughout the town, that in consequence of the small space allotted in the different churchyards of Paisley as common ground for the interment of the poor being found inadequate to meet the present demands, and having besides other objections to

Spirit of Hartshorn, Tincture of Capsicum, Castor Oil, a few Opium Pills of one grain each, small quantities of Laudanum, Ether, and Calomel.—As all cases of this disease are directed to be reported to Dr. M'Kinlay, Medical Secretary, for the information of the Board, the public are cautioned against giving credit to vague reports. They may rest satisfied that, should the disease make its appearance among us, authentic reports will be published by the Board.

“By order of the Board, WILLIAM GILMOUR, Chairman.”

Paisley, 3rd February, 1832.

them, the Magistrates deemed it necessary to give public intimation to the inhabitants that they have set apart a portion of the community's lands, near the Toll-bar on the Greenock Road, for those who have no burying-ground of their own, or whose relations cannot procure a private lair for their interment.¹

The Board, in order to carry on their work correctly and expeditiously, appointed separate committees of their number for the following purposes :—A building committee, hospital and lazaretto committee, burying and disinfecting committee ; a ward committee, to receive all reports from the different wards and maintain a regular correspondence with each of them ; and a depot committee. The Board decided that at least ten of their number should meet every day at two o'clock for transacting business.

To purify the atmosphere, fumigation was at times resorted to. A public meeting was held in the convene-room to consider the propriety of fumigating the town. At this meeting a committee of gentlemen was appointed to procure materials and obtain subscriptions to defray the necessary expenses, and to have this object immediately carried into effect. In addition to this resolution, the inhabitants of the Third Ward were called together by tuck of drum, and met in the Court Hall, with a similar object in view—Bailie Lymburn presiding. A committee was appointed to procure and mix the necessary materials, which consisted of diluted sulphuric acid and chloride of lime ; and within two hours after the resolutions were passed, six different tubs of the mixture were placed on barrows, and, preceded by torches, were passing through the streets, lanes, and closes, while the greater part of the windows were thrown open to admit the fumes.

On account of the harassing duty devolving upon the medical gentlemen during the continued and extensive prevalence of cholera, the Board appointed two young medical students to visit and prescribe for the poor affected with that disease, under the respective district surgeons. The town was divided into two districts, and each of the students had a district assigned to him, along with a depot containing cholera medicine, heating apparatus, and other necessary supplies. The Board also authorised the medical gentlemen to procure for the necessitous poor whom they were called upon to visit such cordials, medicines, and articles of food as they might deem necessary. In addition to the general operations carried on by the Board of Health in almost every part of the town, cholera-preventing societies were formed, medicine-chests procured and stored, cans for holding hot water furnished, and everything placed in readiness to meet the first attacks of the fatal malady. At any hour of the day or night the necessary articles could be procured at a moment's call ; and as almost everyone subscribed a little, the amount of the expense was but trifling. These district societies

¹ This burying-ground was at the extreme west end of the field in which the toll-house stands, and is No. 14 on the Ordnance map (Middle Church Parish).

proved efficient auxiliaries to the general Board, who, of course, gave every encouragement to their formation. The Board instructed the visitors to grant tickets for soup to those persons who had no obvious income of their own, or from the parish funds or otherwise, or who might have been thrown entirely destitute in consequence of the prevailing calamity. The Board likewise made an earnest appeal to the ladies of Paisley to make donations of clothes of all sizes for the purpose of supplying destitute widows, orphan children, and other poor persons who had been removed to the lazaretto from homes in which their relatives had died of cholera.

The Board was re-constituted on the 14th March, according to the terms required by Government. These terms required the number of members not to exceed fifteen, of whom one was required to be a resident magistrate, one a resident clergyman, and not less than two medical practitioners. The following gentlemen were appointed :— William Gilmour, Esq., Provost of Paisley, chairman ; Alexander Campbell, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute ; Rev. Dr. Burns, Rev. John Bremner, Rev. William Smart, Robert M'Kechnie, M.D., Daniel M'Kinlay, M.D., George Wylie, M.D., Messrs. Robert Farquharson, William Sharp, Alexander H. Simpson, Alexander Carlile, William Reid, John Henderson, and Francis Orr. While thus complying with the orders of Government, all the other gentlemen cheerfully consented to continue their services.

On the 29th of February the Board of Health applied to the Government, and also to the Relief Committee of London, for pecuniary aid ; and near the end of the following month a remittance of £300 was received from the latter body.

From the period when cholera first made its appearance in Paisley, the medical practitioners gave their valuable assistance in a most disinterested manner to mitigate and check the ravages of this disease among the poor. Nevertheless, they were subjected to much suspicion, and indeed persecuted by certain parties of the lower orders, who appeared to be impressed with the belief that, as bodies could not be obtained in the burying-grounds owing to their being so well watched, the doctors were allowing empty coffins to be buried, and were selling the bodies of those who died of cholera. These serious and unfounded suspicions culminated in a serious and disgraceful riot. On Sunday afternoon, the 26th March, some people strolling about that part of the moss which had been appropriated for the interment of cholera patients, discovered two shovels, together with a few feet of small cord having an iron hook attached to it. These to the finders were irrefragable proofs that the resurrectionists had been committing depredations. The implements were brought to town, the manner in which they were found described at length, and next morning they were placed in a shop in Blacklaw Lane for public inspection. By nine o'clock large crowds began to assemble in that quarter, and, as usual in such cases, the most exciting and exaggerated reports were circulated. At length the populace, no longer able to restrain themselves, rushed off to the

burial-field to ascertain if any bodies had been lifted. On arrival there, among the first coffins reached, one was found empty, and this appeared fully to confirm previous suspicions. From time to time eye-witness messengers arrived in town stating that first five, then seven, then eight coffins had been disinterred, and in only one were the remains of their former tenants found. This of course incensed the people still more, and a large additional number hurried off to the scene of operations. After an immense crowd had collected, the first empty coffin found was mounted shoulder-high ; the stobs that fenced the field were torn up and shouldered like a forest of pikes, and in this threatening array, breathing destruction to the doctors, the immense crowd marched off in a dense body towards the town. By this time the Sheriff, Provost, and Magistrates, the Fiscal, Captain of Police, and a few constables, had left the County Buildings to meet the mob, in the hope of turning them by expostulation from their purpose of making a procession through the town ; but all in vain. The Magistrates and the crowd met in Glen Lane, the coffin was taken from its bearers and broken, and many of the stob-bearers getting ashamed of their proceedings, threw down their weapons. For a time the voice of the Sheriff seemed to stem the torrent, but it was eventually drowned in the vociferations "hurrah for the doctors." At this point of time two of the police-officers were struck, and one of them was constrained to retreat into a house in St. James Street, the windows of which were in a few minutes riddled with stones. The mob moved on, and as they went round the corner of St. James Street made a dead halt till the shop-windows of Dr. Vessie, and the bottles in it, were destroyed. The windows of Mr. W. Young and of Dr. A. K. Young were next wrecked. The crowd then retraced their steps through New Sneddon Street, passed the County Buildings, and moved up School Wynd breathing vengeance on the Cholera Hospital in Oakshaw Street. On reaching the head of the lane they forced the gates erected to prevent intercourse, seized on the cholera van and marched off down Orr Street with it, riddling with stones in passing, the windows of Dr. Kerr. They then proceeded down Storie Street to throw the van into the canal, but on arriving at the basin this resolution was overruled on the ground that the procession without the cholera van would not be so imposing. The body of the van, however, was smashed to atoms and the fragments strewed around the canal area. The shops of Drs. Bell and Falconer, in George Street, were next demolished ; and while this was going on, a grocer's shop adjacent was robbed of a one pound note and some silver. Onwards the crowd moved up Lady Lane, and east High Street ; and after breaking a few panes of glass in the windows of one of the active members of the Board of Health they arrived at the head of New Street. The subsequent route was soon resolved on, viz. :—down New Street, through Orchard Street, Bridge Street, Cotton Street, Lawn Street, and across Old Bridge to the Coffee-Room. The windows

of Drs. M'Kinlay, Munn, Jeffrey, Fulton, Corbet, and M'Kechnie's houses, in that route, were all more or less damaged in succession. On reaching the Cross, Bailie Lymburn, Mr. R. Lang, Mr. Bell, and Mr. Reid, of the Board of Health, interposed, and stopped the progress of the crowd, who retired across the Old Bridge, leaving the half-destroyed vehicle in the hands of these gentlemen. Shortly after this the military arrived, and were drawn up in the vestibule of the Court-Hall. The area in front of the County Buildings was by this time filled with a dense throng, but in a very short time they began to separate; and as it was not found necessary for the military to act, they were drawn off about four o'clock. On retiring, a part of the crowd paid a second visit to the Hospital in Oakshaw Street, and broke between forty and fifty panes of glass. A couple of sweeps by some means gained an entrance, and broke open the medicine-room in quest of the doctor; but fortunately he had retired. They, however, found the whisky jar, to which they applied themselves with such vigour that they were soon senseless. In this state the two, along with a temporary porter in the hospital, who had also been assisting to empty the jar, were carried to the Police Office. In the evening a party of men, engaged in further examination of the burial-field, raised and examined other nine coffins, all of which were found to have been undisturbed. Handbills to that effect were immediately circulated, which, together with a proclamation issued in the early part of the afternoon, offering a reward of £50 for the discovery of the resurrectionists, tended in a great degree to allay the popular ferment. Parties of special constables paraded the town throughout the night, and no further disturbance took place. On the following day the remainder of the coffins were disinterred, when it was found that two more bodies were missing, being three in all out of eighty. Attempts were made to bring these two additional coffins into town in a second procession, but this was wisely prevented. The miscreants who abstracted these bodies, and thus outraged public feeling, and excited such a dangerous and disgraceful commotion, were never discovered.¹ In most of the towns which had been visited by this fatal disease, similar riots took place.

On the following day there was a meeting of the Board of Health, at which it was resolved that, "considering the cruel and unhand-some treatment which the members of the medical faculty yesterday received from a misguided multitude, they do express their deep regret at the outrage committed and their undiminished confidence in the medical gentlemen, and do tender them their cordial thanks for their past services and pledge themselves to give them every countenance and protection in their power in the prosecution of their disinterested labours for the alleviation and removal of in-

¹ A statement of the sums decerned for against the town for damages incurred during the cholera riots, and expenses, amounting to £104 7s. 3½d., was appointed to be paid (*Council Records*, 10th October, 1832). There were 420 panes of glass broken.

fectious disease" (*Records of the Paisley Board of Health*). The Board also appointed their vote of thanks to be communicated to the medical gentlemen. A watch was set over the burying-ground at the Moss after the day of the riot. At a meeting of the Board held on 28th March, a communication was received from the medical gentlemen, of the following tenor:—"Before the town was visited by the pestilential disorder which now rages, the whole medical practitioners volunteered their gratuitous services to check and mitigate its ravages and to attend the poor. The town accordingly was, under the sanction of the Board of Health, divided into small districts, which were placed under medical superintendence; a cholera hospital, under the management of medical practitioners of the town, was established; and till this date the medical men have been prodigal of their labours in the discharge of their respective duties. No charge of neglect or dereliction of duty has been made against any of their number; yet, a groundless prejudice among that class of sufferers for whose benefit their exertions were chiefly intended has from the first been harboured against the medical men, and to a degree not only calculated to damp the ardour of their zeal, but almost entirely to prevent the usefulness of their labours. At first they sympathised with their townsmen smarting under the visitation of a disease new in this country and unexampled in its severity, and hoped a little time would show that their exertions were pure and disinterested; but to their mortification, the clamour has now reached a pitch which causes in the minds of the medical men the most serious doubts whether the continuance of their labours under the present system be not likely to eventuate in evil rather than in good. The position, too, in which the Board of Health now stands in consequence of the powers conferred on it by the late Act of Parliament, greatly lessens the difficulty of the medical men in coming to a decision. Accordingly, at a meeting of their associated body for the prevention and cure of cholera, duly convened and held this day, the undersigned medical practitioners of Paisley unanimously resolved—with all respect for the Board of Health and with every sense of the courtesy shown them by that body—to resign into their hands the offices they hold as district surgeons, their superintendence of the Cholera Hospital, and in general all charge of cholera cases coming under the management of the Board.—(Signed) R. M'Kechnie, M.D., preses; Thomas Richmond, James Kerr, John Rodman, Allan Stewart, George Wylie, William Jeffrey, David Fulton, Daniel M'Kinlay, John Torbet, William Vessie, A. K. Young, William Kerr, William Falconer, John Nisbet, D. Munn, William Muir, William Bell, D. M'Pherson, William M'Walter, Robert Lymburn."

The Board accepted, with reluctance, these resignations, under the assurance that the medical gentlemen who were members of the Board would still remain. The inhabitants generally deplored the insult and injuries offered to the medical gentlemen by the lawless

mob, and lamented the ingratitude which had occasioned such misconduct. Many bodies of the inhabitants so expressed themselves, and among these were the Commissioners of Police; the Roman Catholics, at a meeting held in their own chapel; the inhabitants of Gordon's Lane, Prussia Street, and Causeyside, at a meeting held for that purpose; the inhabitants of the First Ward, at a meeting in the Lyceum Rooms; the inhabitants of the Second and Third Wards, at a meeting in the Court Hall; and the inhabitants of the Third Ward at a meeting held in the Lyceum Rooms.

Fortunately, by the middle of April the number of cases commenced steadily to decline, but the disease continued to linger in the town till the beginning of November following. Among the deaths from cholera during the week ending 13th October were three, which from their suddenness and from the social position of the parties, excited a deep sensation. The first was that of Mrs. Todd, wife of Mr. Todd, tobacconist. She was in the shop on Monday at eleven o'clock forenoon conversing cheerfully, and she died at six o'clock in the evening of the same day. The second was that of Bailie Lymburn. He attended a meeting of the Old Weavers' Society on Monday evening in excellent health and spirits, became unwell at seven o'clock the following morning, and died the same evening at nine o'clock.¹ On the following day (Wednesday) Mrs. Lymburn, who had attended her husband closely on the preceding day, took ill and sank rapidly till next day at eleven o'clock, when she expired.

The total number of cases of cholera in Paisley at this period was 769, and the number of deaths 446.

Paisley was again visited with cholera in 1834, when there were 140 deaths. In the latter end of December, 1848, cholera returned to Paisley, the first case being in St. James Street. It continued till the beginning of March in the following year, during which space of time there were 381 cases—190 deaths and 191 recoveries. The pestilence raged most severely in the Charleston district, the inhabitants there being then supplied with water from wells of a very inferior quality. In August, 1854, cholera again visited Paisley, when there were about fifty deaths, but it disappeared the following month, and fortunately has never returned.

When it was proposed in 1789 to erect a new church at West

¹ "The Council, before proceeding to business, unanimously agreed to record their deep regret at the loss of two of their most efficient members, viz., Provost Gilmour and Bailie Lymburn, both of whom discharged the office of Magistrates and Councillors for many years. The Provost died (of dysentery) after a few weeks' illness, shortly before the late election, and had nearly terminated the third year of his Provostship. Mr. Lymburn died last Tuesday evening, after a few hours' illness, of spasmodic or Indian cholera, a disease which had made its appearance in this country last year, and has spread its malignant influence over a great part of the United Kingdom. The disease began in Paisley, February 1832" (*Council Records*, 12th October, 1832).

Broomlands, a burying-ground was formed there also, and the remains of the Martyrs, James Algie and John Park, along with the stone slab already referred to, were removed from Gallowgreen, by order of the Magistrates, to this new place of interment. The business of disinterring the bones of the Martyrs, where they had rested for nearly a century, and conveying them to the new mausoleum, then newly laid off, was conducted with great solemnity. Many of all denominations attended on the occasion to pay respect to the cause for which their forefathers bled. Part of the expense was defrayed by the Magistrates, but the greater part by subscriptions from individuals and public bodies. John Parkhill, in his work "Ten Years' Experience of a Bethel's Life," page 28, states that "the bottom of yard No. 21 Maxwellton Street, formerly a part of Gallowgreen, was the site where the bodies of the Martyrs were first interred." The erection of the proposed new church was not however carried out; and after a few interments the burying-ground was abandoned and fell into neglect, the inscription on the Martyrs' stone becoming nearly effaced. In 1834 the proposal made to have a public monument erected at the Martyrs' grave was at once heartily responded to, and the necessary funds obtained. The late Rev. Dr. Andrew Symington entered with great zeal and energy into the proposals to erect a monument commemorative of the two Martyrs, and delivered an eloquent and impressive discourse in the High Church on the evening of the 24th October, 1834, explanatory of the intended memorial — the collection on the occasion being in aid of the funds. The result of these efforts was that the monument was completed on 3rd October, 1835. It is of Stevenston stone, consisting of thirteen pieces. Two form the base; four the shaft of the pedestal, on which the inscriptions are engraved; two form the cornice at the four angles; and the thirteenth piece, weighing $4\frac{1}{4}$ tons, forms a smooth tapering obelisk with chamfered angles, the base of which is thirty-two inches square and the height fourteen feet three inches. The whole height of the monument — of which we give a sketch — from the base of the pedestal, is twenty feet six inches, and the weight of stones used about twelve tons. On the east side of the pedestal is engraved the original epitaph on the stone slab, already given. On the north side of the pedestal is an inscription stating the time and circumstances of the removal of the remains from the Gallowgreen, as follows:—

"The stone containing the epitaph transcribed on this monument, was erected over the grave in the Gallowgreen, the place of common execution; and on occasion of the grounds being built upon, it was removed near to this spot, along with the remains of the martyrs, by order of the Magistrates,—

"John Storie, John Paterson, and John Cochrane.

"MDCCLXXIX."

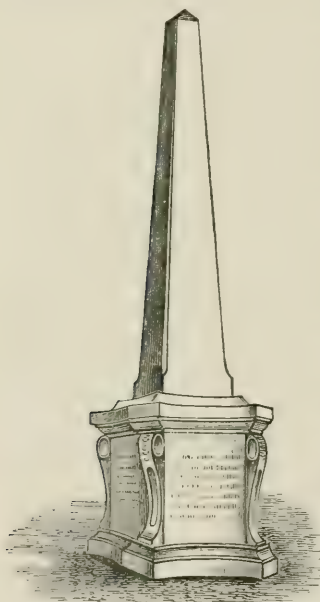
On the south side is the following inscription :—

“ Erected
By the contributions of Christians
of different denominations in
and about Paisley to
renew and per-
petuate a memorial
of the respect
and gratitude
with which pos-
terity still cherish
the memory
of the mar-
tyrs of
Scotland.

—
MDCCCXXXV.”

And on the west side is inscribed the following beautiful and appropriate extract from Cowper :—

“ Their blood is shed
In confirmation of the noblest claim—
Our claim to feed upon immortal truth,
To walk with God, to be divinely free,
To soar, and to anticipate the skies.
Yet few remember them. They lived un-
known,
Till persecution dragged them into fame
And chased them up to Heav’n.”



MARTYRS' MONUMENT.

The workmanship of the monu-
ment is good, and the design, al-
though plain, is chaste and graceful.
The architect was Mr. James Drum-
mond, Paisley, and the sculptor, Mr.
Matthew Gemmell, Paisley. At this
time a church,—appropriately named
the Martyrs' Church, — was erected
there, and the martyrs' grave became
part of the burying-ground. Ten
years afterwards this burying-ground
was included in the new and spacious
cemetery adjoining, that was then
formed, and the martyrs' monument
is now one of the most interesting
in these beautiful grounds. We give
a sketch of this monument.

The first Act of Parliament for the establishment of a Gas Company was passed in 1810, and under its powers the Chartered Gas Company of London commenced operations amidst the sneers of almost everybody. It was not, however, till December 1813

that gas-lighting was employed on a large scale in streets, by the lighting of Westminster bridge; and on 1st April, 1814, the Parish of St. Margarets, Westminster, substituted gas for oil in their streets. At a public meeting held in Glasgow in November 1816, it was agreed to form a joint-stock company to make gas, and to apply for an Act of Parliament. In March, 1818, that company announced that their works were in such a state of forwardness that they were able to supply light to the city. The first movement made in Paisley regarding the using of gas was in 1819, when James Williamson, china-merchant, High Street, and others, applied to the Council for permission to convey gas by pipes across the street opposite their premises. The Council willingly gave their consent, and expressed their readiness to afford every facility and encouragement to any measure of the kind (*Council Records*, 24th November, 1819). It was in September, 1821, that the first steps were taken for the establishment of a company in Paisley to make gas. The promoters of the scheme applied to the Council to take shares, but they declined to do so with expressions of regret, alleging that the state of the community's funds did not justify them in taking such a step, but they hoped the undertaking would be beneficial to the public and profitable to the promoters (*Council Records*, 12th October, 1821). Sufficient funds having been obtained, the promoters of the company applied to Parliament for an act for the better lighting of the town. A part of the preamble of the bill was — "And whereas inflammable air or gas, coke, oil, tar, pitch, asphaltum, ammoniacal liquor, essential oil, pyroligneous acid, charcoal, and other products, may be procured from coal, oil, tallow, tar, peat, turf, rosin, wood, and other inflammable substances; and whereas the said inflammable air may be safely and beneficially used for lighting the streets," private houses, &c.; "and the coke may be beneficially employed as fuel;" and the oil, tar, and other inflammable substances already mentioned, "may be used and applied in various other ways with great advantage," &c. The act so applied for was passed by the legislature, and the Paisley Gas Light Company so incorporated was authorised to raise £16,000 in shares of £5 each, and to borrow a further sum of £4000. The act received the Royal assent on 30th May, 1823, and the first directors were Ludovic Houston, of Johnstone, governor; R. Farquharson, deputy-governor; Messrs. Alexander Fullarton, James Buchanan, W. Waterston, John Orr, John Bell, James Wylie, Joseph Twigg, William Gilmour, James Jackson, and George Millar. Operations were commenced without any loss of time, and the directors applied to the Council on 23rd August in that year for permission to open some of the streets for laying pipes. In the following year the greater number of the inhabitants were enjoying all the comforts to be derived from this greatly superior mode of supplying light. At the annual election of directors in June 1825, Mr. John Orr resigned his treasurership; and the company cordially united in a vote of thanks for his important services, and unani-

mously agreed that a piece of plate of the value of fifty guineas should be presented to him in their name.

In 1832 the company obtained powers from Parliament for additional capital to the amount of £16,000,—in shares of £5 each,—with power also to borrow £8000. This money was required for the further extension of the works to meet the increasing demand for gas.

In the latter end of 1843 a new gas company was formed ; and on 29th January, 1844, the *interim* directors applied to the Town Council to consent to their operations being carried on in the meantime without an Act of Parliament, and to allow pipes to be laid in the streets. The directors of the old gas company, hearing of this application, desired the Council to give them an opportunity of stating their objections before coming to any decision. This meeting took place, and the Council afterwards appointed a committee to confer with the directors of the old gas company on the subject of that company ceding their whole works to the Council for behoof of the public, which it had been announced they were willing to do on terms advantageous to the community. After some correspondence and meetings, heads of an agreement for merging the Paisley Gas Light Company into a public trust in connection with the Corporation of Paisley were agreed to and signed by both parties. These were to the effect that the trust should be constituted with a view to secure cheap lighting for the town, and that the £5 share of the company should be valued at £8, which was the market price at that time, and that the shareholders should receive four per cent. thereon. That the board of management should consist of twelve trustees, eight of whom should be elected by the shareholders and four by the Council. When one-fourth of the capital should be paid up the Council would elect five, and when one-half of the capital should be paid the Council would elect six, trustees ; and this system should be continued to the end of the trust. The Council also was to have power to terminate the trust by paying the shareholders, and was entitled to borrow money on the works for that purpose. This arrangement was only to be carried into effect in the event of the new company not obtaining their Act of Parliament. The subject of this agreement and the prosecution of the new Gas Bill involved many public meetings, and caused much excitement in the town. The new Gas Bill passed the Committee of the House of Commons ; but while pending in the House of Lords, an arrangement was made whereby, on payment of £3600 by the old to the new gas company towards defraying expenses, it was agreed to except Paisley within the Parliamentary limits from the new bill, and this arrangement was sanctioned by Parliament. Afterwards Parliamentary notices were published and a bill prepared to carry out the agreement between the Council and the old gas company. This bill, establishing the gas-works as a public trust, passed through both Houses of Parliament without any opposition, and received the Royal assent on 30th June, 1845. The following

statement shows the annual revenue, price of gas, and number of consumers of gas, at different periods since the company was established :—

Year Ending	Total Revenue.			Price of Gas per 1000 feet.	Number of Consumers of Gas.
31st May, 1825, ...	£1969 12 3	...	11/4	...	568
„ 1830, ...	3094 18 3	...	11/4	...	1338
„ 1835, ...	7240 19 1	...	9/6	...	5777
„ 1840, ...	9607 10 3	...	8/6	...	7728
„ 1842, ...	8706 2 4	...	8/6	...	6088
„ 1845, ...	9618 15 1	...	6/6	...	6846
„ 1850, ...	9628 2 3	...	6/	...	6867

It is worthy of being recorded that when the Council arranged with the old gas company in 1844 to make the gas-works a trust for behoof of the public, the price of the gas was, by good management, only 7s. per 1000 cubic feet, being the lowest price in Scotland at that time. Unfortunately, the same cannot now be said, as several towns are at present (1884) supplied with gas at a lower rate than Paisley.

Before the introduction into Paisley of an abundance of pure water from Gleniffer hills in 1838, the supply of this most important element of life to the inhabitants was very defective. There was no want of enterprise among them in raising the necessary funds, but the great difficulty was to find a source from which a proper supply could be obtained. A committee of the inhabitants who had been previously appointed, reported to a numerously-attended meeting, held in the Court-Hall on 11th October, 1824, regarding the different schemes they had been considering. The committee stated that at one time it was thought that reservoirs of water, sufficient for the consumpt of Paisley, might be formed on the hills to the south and south-west of the town; but after a careful survey, it was found that the quantity which could be collected in that quarter was comparatively insignificant, and that its quality was very doubtful; while so many private interests interfered to impede the appropriation of water there, as to present insuperable obstacles to the prosecution of that proposal, even if it had been likely to answer the first expectations of those who suggested it. Another project had been considered by the committee. It was to construct extensive artificial filters in the bed of the river Cart; and probably the success of several experiments which had been made might have led to the adoption of that plan, had it not been discovered that a great abundance of pure water was to be found by digging pits on the banks of the river, on the lands of Blackhall and Whiteford. A bed of gravel, varying in depth from three to four feet, formed a deposit at a moderate depth below the surface of these lands, and when this gravel had been laid open by borings and excavations, a quantity of water was found which left no room for doubt that the formation of

tunnels would yield as great a supply as was likely to be required ; and by the application of machinery the water could be raised to the necessary height. Such were the views propounded by this committee ; and the meeting believing that the latter scheme was perfectly practicable, agreed that the raising of subscriptions should be immediately commenced, with the view of carrying it out. Upwards of £11,000 was subscribed before the meeting separated. Shortly afterwards the proposed capital of £30,000 was all taken up ; and at a meeting of the subscribers, held on the 29th of that month, the capital was increased to £40,000. A committee was appointed to see a bill prepared for an Act of Parliament to incorporate the company, and to procure powers for prosecuting the undertaking. An act was obtained, but the serious depression of trade that immediately followed, in which many of the shareholders were involved, caused delay in proceeding with the operations. Doubts besides began to be entertained regarding the practicability of the undertaking ; and the company also became alarmed at the large claims made by the owners of public works, at Saucel and Seedhill, for compensation for the water proposed to be taken from the river by the town. In the meantime Dr. James Kerr, who was a shareholder in that water company, was maturing a plan by which the town would be satisfactorily supplied with water. His plan was based on the first scheme already referred to, and rejected by the committee in 1824. At a meeting of the Water Company held on 3rd May, 1830, Dr. Kerr was desired to explain his proposal for providing a sufficient supply of water to the town. His description to the meeting was in substance as follows :—That the water of the Espedair burn, before it became contaminated with public works, was of a pure quality, free from moss and mineral impregnations ; and he proposed that a reservoir should be formed at Nethercraigs, capable of containing six or seven months' supply to the town ; that it should be conveyed in a stone conduit to the head of Calside, where a small reservoir should be formed, and the water conveyed thence in iron pipes throughout the town. Dr. Kerr's plan was unanimously approved of by the meeting, and a hearty vote of thanks awarded him for his exertions. He afterwards described his water scheme on 7th February, 1831, in a lecture at a meeting of the Philosophical Institution. But nothing was done till 7th January, 1833, when a special meeting, called by Provost Orr, was held in the Court-Hall, for the purpose of taking measures to obtain an abundant supply of water to the town. Sir John Maxwell, M.P., was called on to preside. The meeting, besides being well attended, was enthusiastic, and resolved to desire Mr. Thom, of Rothesay, who had much experience in similar undertakings, to report as to the best mode of supplying the town with water.¹ Several gentlemen

¹ In 1824, at the desire of Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, Mr. Thom, of Rothesay, inspected all the grounds to the south of Greenock, and found that it was not only practicable to collect water to give a sufficient supply to the inhabitants of that town, but also such a supply as would propel machinery. Accordingly a

were appointed to collect money to pay for this survey. On 6th November, 1834, a meeting of these subscribers and others was held in the Court-Hall,—Mr. John Orr presiding. Mr. Thom's report, which had been delayed by the delicate state of his health, was read and approved of. The meeting resolved to form a Joint-Stock Company, for procuring a plentiful supply of good water, according to the report supplied by Mr. Thom, which was similar to the scheme by Dr. Kerr, and fixed the capital at £35,000, in £10 shares, with powers to borrow £15,000. It was intimated to the meeting that, on the previous day, and that day, £14,000 had been subscribed. At a meeting of shareholders, held on 19th December following, they agreed to extend the capital to £40,000. At that meeting the following gentlemen were chosen to form the Board of Management:—John Orr, governor; Dr. James Kerr, deputy-governor. And the ordinary Directors appointed were:—William Kerr, William Brown, jun., William Reid, Robert Farquharson, Peter Brough, Alexander Fullarton, David Bain, John Scott, John Stewart, and A. C. Holms.

The bill that was introduced into Parliament received the Royal assent on 21st July, 1835. Considerable time was taken up in arranging with the various proprietors of the lands, with the bleachers about compensation water, and the making of contracts for the work to be performed; and it was not till 29th April, 1836, that the first spade of earth was turned over.

When the works were completed and the water ready to be let into the pipes, the directors invited the Earl of Glasgow, who had all along been a kind friend and patron of the company, to perform the interesting ceremony of opening the sluices at the Stanely Reservoir, on Friday, 13th July, 1838. This invitation was readily accepted; but the state of his Lordship's health when the day arrived did not allow him to perform the ceremony, and Dr. James Kerr was appointed to do so. On that day at one o'clock the directors, accompanied by the Sheriff-Substitute of the County and the Provost and Magistrates of Paisley, with several strangers, assembled in the County Hall, the turrets of which were decorated with flags, and proceeded in carriages, by the Corsebar Road, to the reservoir. The party, with the workmen following, formed in procession, passed beneath a triumphal arch that had been erected, and, to the sound of the bagpipe, marched along the embankment that separates the large from the small reservoir. When the gentlemen of the procession ascended the gangway, the Rev. Dr. Burns, at the request of the governor, in a most appropriate and impressive prayer, invoked the Divine blessing on the proceedings. After the Governor and Provost Drummond had addressed the assemblage, Dr. Kerr, amidst great cheering, opened the sluice to allow the water to

joint-stock company, under the auspices of Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, with a capital of £31,000, was incorporated by Act of Parliament, for carrying the plan into effect. The greater portion of the works, under the directions of Mr. Thom, was successfully finished in 1827 ("Account of the Shaws Water Scheme," 1829).

flow out towards Paisley. To the spectator on this interesting occasion the scene, beautified by the recently-formed broad expanse of pure water,—the grey-walled castle of Stanely surrounded by the water with the Union Jack flying from its lofty battlements, and the towering Braes of Gleniffer forming the near southern horizon, combined with the pleasing thought that the industrious and enterprising inhabitants of the town of Paisley would thenceforth be blessed with an abundant supply of good water,—must have been extremely grand and impressive.¹

The procession next went to Calside, where Dr. Kerr opened the sluices also, and then it moved towards the town. The turning on of the water was made known to the inhabitants by the ringing of the bells and by the playing of *jets d'eau* throughout the town. There were five of these—one at St. George's Church, one at the foot of St. Mirren Street, one near the Tontine, and one at the Cross. They were all in the form of Prince of Wales feathers, except the one at the Cross, which was fitted with revolving arms, on the principle of Barker's mill or Avery's engine. Near the residence of Dr. Kerr, a beautiful triumphal arch spanned Orr Square, formed

¹ “ See yonder frowning castle's crumbling form
That centuries has stood stern winter's storm,
Now stands an island in the watery plain
Which patriots placed on Stanely's wide domain,
That tens of thousands may with ease enjoy
The beverage that judgment ne'er will cloy.
And first, to Dr. Kerr the praise is due,
Who dared with perseverance to pursue
His darling project, till wise laws were framed
To give his townsmen what his genius claimed
As likeliest to confer a lasting boon
To those who domiciled in Paisley toon.
Auspicious rose the morn ! the crystal rills
With tenfold haste forsook their native hills,
As eager to be first in the new way
Which would their treasures to men's homes convey
Clear as when first they bubbled from the spring,
Fresh as the dawn when larks essay to sing.
From towns and villages vast groups repair,
Resolved the pleasures of the day to share,
Among whom ladies fair were to be seen,
Whose smiles spread joy around the hazy scene,
And gallant youths, whose eyes too well betrayed
The wounds that beauty in their hearts had made.
Even age and thoughtless childhood might be seen
Throng pressing onwards to the Stanely green,
Intent to witness Doctor Kerr let flow
The liquid element to plains below.
The sluices drawn, down rushed the willing tide
Through hollow tubes, and soon it reached Calside,
Where Kerr again, joy beaming in his face,
Open'd the second sluice. With quicker pace,
On, on the waters rushed ! In every street
A thousand welcomes its arrival greet.”

Extract from “Lines” in the *Wee Steeple's Ghaist*, &c., p. 141, by John Mitchell.

with wild flowers and shrubs from “the Braes of Gleniffer,” and in its centre a stream of water spouted from a large bunch of the water-iris.

On that afternoon 120 gentlemen dined in the Exchange Assembly Rooms,—John Orr, Esq., governor of the company, in the chair. A pleasant evening was spent in rejoicing over the completion of so important an undertaking as giving to the inhabitants the inestimable blessing of a pure and abundant water supply. The company did not break up till half-past eleven o’clock, when three cheers were given, with the greatest enthusiasm, to Dr. Kerr.

On 3rd February, the Directors published their scale of charges for supplying water from 11th November, 1838, and giving it free for the period prior to that date.

DWELLING-HOUSES

Rented under £2,	...	...	...	...	5/-
£2 and under 3,	...	...	...	...	6/-
3 Do. 4,	...	...	...	...	6/6
4 Do. 5,	...	...	...	...	7/6
5 Do. 6,	...	...	...	...	8/6
6 Do. 7,	...	...	...	...	9/-
7 Do. 8,	...	...	...	...	9/6
8 Do. 9,	...	...	...	...	10/-
9 Do. 10,	...	...	...	...	10/6
10 Do. 11,	...	...	...	...	11/-
11 Do. 12,	...	...	...	...	11/6

From £12 to £30, the charge was 1/- for each £ of rent. All above £30 rose by 6d. for every additional £ of rent.

The landlords of a tenement provided with a water pipe contracting with the company for all the dwellings in it having rentals of £4 and under, were allowed a discount of ten per cent. from the preceding rates.

PUBLIC WORKS

Taking water by measurement during a year of 310 working days were to pay as follows :—

Gallons Daily.			Gallons Daily.		
500,	...	£3 10 0	5,000,	...	£22 0 0
600,	...	4 0 0	6,000,	...	25 0 0
700,	...	4 10 0	7,000,	...	28 0 0
800,	...	5 0 0	8,000,	...	31 0 0
900,	...	5 10 0	9,000,	...	34 0 0
1,000,	...	6 0 0	10,000,	...	37 0 0
2,000,	...	10 0 0	15,000,	...	47 0 0
3,000,	...	14 0 0	20,000,	...	57 0 0
4,000,	...	18 0 0			

A number of gentlemen resolved to express their gratitude to Dr. James Kerr for his exertions in procuring a supply of water for Paisley, by presenting him with a handsome testimonial. The presentation took place on 18th December, 1840, when he was entertained in the Saracen’s Head Inn. Provost Bisset presided, and

ex-Provost Drummond acted as croupier. The testimonial was a beautiful piece of sculptured marble. The artist was **Mr. James Fillans**. The design was most appropriate and chaste, and the work was altogether tastefully executed. Briefly described, the testimonial consisted of a shield upon which in bas-relief were represented a full-sized medallion of **Dr. Kerr**, surmounted by his crest, a unicorn and laurel. Right of the shield — the goddess of the fountain supplying water in a cup to the young inhabitants, one of whom is drinking greedily of the pure stream, while another is striving to share it, as emblematic of the previous scarcity of water. At the feet of the goddess is the figure of **St. Mirin**, the tutelary guardian of Paisley, looking up in gratitude to the goddess of the fountain, his limbs hidden in water-lilies, while in his left hand he holds a cup of water and in his right a medallion of **Dr. Kerr**, partly concealed by his tunic, as indicative of Paisley's grateful remembrance of the Doctor. Left of the shield — **Esculapius**, the god of medicine, healing a child who has been bitten by an asp. The mother, holding the boy on her knee, is bending over him watching returning health, while the asp disappears among the water-lilies — the whole surmounted by a slab of marble of a different colour from the shield, with the inscription, "Presented by the Water Company."¹ The original model of this beautiful piece of art is placed inside of the north wall of the Paisley Coffee-Room.

¹ **Dr. Kerr** died on 4th March, 1848, at No. 40 Cambridge Street, Glasgow, to which place he had removed from Paisley, along with his son, **Dr. William Kerr**, a few years previously. He was born at Stevenston, County of Ayr, on 1st October, 1769. After completing his education at the Glasgow University, the first scene of his labours, when only twenty-one years of age, was in the town of Beith, where he remained about one year. Leaving Beith to practise in Paisley, he lived there fifty-six years. His professional abilities were admittedly great, and he was famed as a surgical operator. He was, besides, a kindly and warm-hearted gentleman. A few months before his death he fell and hurt himself, and this was instrumental in hastening his death. A monument as a tribute to his private worth and public usefulness was erected over his grave in the Paisley Cemetery, where the body was interred in September, 1853. It is a simple obelisk raised on a massive pedestal and terminating in a basement of a flight of steps. On the front pillars of the pedestal are sculptured emblems of the blessings derived by a community from an abundant supply of pure and wholesome water. On the two front pillars on each side of the space for the inscription are chaste classical *basso relievos*. A mother engaged in the act of washing her child, another female looking on while her pitcher is being replenished at the well, forms one of these; and the other shows an old man, travel-worn and thirsty, receiving a draught of water from the hands of a kindly, sympathising maiden. On the other pillars of the pedestal are represented amphora, or the liquid measures of the Greeks. The carved mouldings represent the lotus or water lily adapted to architecture; and on the base of the needle are the classical attributes of health, in allusion to the doctor's profession. The needle is formed of a single block of stone eighteen and a-half feet in length, and the monument altogether is upwards of thirty feet high. The stone is from Craiksland Quarry, near Troon. The following is the inscription on the front of the pedestal:—"In memory of **James Kerr, Esq., M.D.** Erected by subscription in testimony of public respect for private and professional character, and grateful acknowledgment of his invaluable public services as the originator and promoter of a plan for supplying the town of Paisley with water." The reverse side of the pedestal contains the date of the doctor's birth and death. The design and execution are by **Mr. John Mossman** of Glasgow.

Down to the time the Stanely water was brought into the town, the inhabitants experienced great inconvenience from the want of a proper supply for domestic purposes. As the water in the river was polluted by public works, and therefore unfit for use in houses, they were dependent on two other sources of supply. The one was public and private wells ; but the water in the most of these was not pure, and the supply, besides, was frequently very defective. Where a public well was situated, those residing in the district took charge of it, and allowed the water to be taken from it only at certain periods. Those wishing water placed the vessel meant to hold it, which was generally a stoup, next to the well if first, or next to the one immediately before them, and in this way every one secured his supply in proper rotation. By the time a well was unlocked and water allowed to be drawn, there would be seen a long range of these stoups.¹ In Camden's *Britannia* (p. 924, edition 1695) it is stated that "in the lands of Newyards, near Pasly, there is a remarkable spring, which is observed to ebb and flow with the tyde, tho' it be on a far higher ground than any place where the tyde cometh." George Crawford (*History of the Shire of Renfrew*, p. 3) states that "there is a spring in the lands of Woodside, the possession of Hugh Crawford, my brother-german, that flows and ebbs at spring tides, tho' at three miles distance from any part of the river of Clide and half-a-mile from the bridge of Pasly, where the river of Cart ebbs and flows, the ground where that spring is being much higher than the river." Principal Dunlop (*History of Renfrewshire* p. 143), gives a similar account. Mr. W. Semple (*History of Renfrewshire*, p. 148) only states that "the spring-well mentioned

¹ Among wells o' the town it aye bore the degree
Of being the best for the making o' tea,
And our mothers, ye mind, did us often compel
To tak' up the turn at the Storie Street Well.
When water was scarce during summer's warm drouth,
The stoups stood in raws to lang James's close-mouth ;
And shifting their places caused many a gell
Wi' the wives and the weans around Storie Street Well.

The householders held every year a franchise
For appointing a board to raise the supplies.
When their business was done, they'd adjourn the Counsel
To some public-house near the Storie Street Well.
The gill and the yill gave their humour the fang ;
They bantered each other, they roared and they sang.
It would tak' a whole night a' the smart jokes to tell
That were crack'd at the meetings of Storie Street Well.

"Truth's hid in a well," as the old proverb says,
But the Well Committees, to their credit and praise,
Had truth in their dealings, and friendship as well,
In a' their transactions of Storie Street Well.
Now, Storie Street neighbours, I hope that my sang
Has been of some service in helping to fang
And good feeling draw out from each breast's inmost cell,
As the pump draws the water from Storie Street Well.

—David Picken.

by Mr. Crawford lies south-west of Woodside House." This well was on the north side of the road leading from the main street to Ferguslie House by what is now called Ferguslie Walk, but in our century at least there have been no such marvellous movements of its water. The other way the inhabitants supplied themselves with water was by purchase from persons who carted it through the town in barrels, the price charged being a farthing for each stoupful. Much of the water, also, that fell on the roofs of slated houses was led into barrels in back courts and used for washing purposes.

A requisition was presented to Provost Gilmour that he should call a public meeting, to petition both Houses of Parliament for the immediate amelioration of the condition of the slaves in the British Colonies, and for the speedy and entire abolition of British Colonial Slavery. As the Provost declined, the requisitionists called a meeting, to be held in the Court-Hall on 1st November, 1830. Mr. James Carlile was called on to preside. The speakers in support of the resolutions were — Mr. J. M. Bell, advocate (son of Mr. John Bell, Woodside); Mr. Simpson, writer; Mr. Kennedy, teacher; Rev. Mr. Burns, Rev. Mr. M'Nair, Rev. Mr. M'Dermid, and the Rev. Mr. Smart. Subsequent to this, and down to the time when slavery was abolished in our empire, public anti-slavery meetings were frequently held. Lectures were also given by Mr. George Thomson and others against slavery.

The act of 1832 for a better representation of the people in Parliament, was followed, as a matter of course, in 1833, by another, to give similar privileges in the election of Town Councillors to the inhabitants of burghs. By this measure the system of self-election, with all its tortuous and complicated arrangements, which we have more than once described, was effectually abolished. To the bill in its course through Parliament there was no really serious opposition offered from any quarter. At a meeting of Council, held on 6th May, the Provost asked the opinion of his brethren as to the propriety of calling a public meeting, to consider the new Burgh Reform Bill, and they unanimously expressed themselves in favour of such a course. This public meeting was held in the Court-Hall on 14th May,—Provost Orr presiding. It was the opinion of several of those present that the right of voting should be extended to holders of houses rented at £5 and upwards, and that both burgesses and feuars should have a vote; but the meeting remitted to a committee to consider the bill, and to report thereon to another meeting. That adjourned meeting was held on the 12th June. Provost Orr was called to the chair. A series of resolutions was passed suggesting some additions and alterations upon the bill, but declaring at the same time that "the Burgh Reform Bill deserves the grateful acknowledgments of the country." The meeting wished that burgesses and feuars should have votes; that the Council should number not less than twenty-four; that the fee provided by

the bill for substitutes and assessors at elections should be limited to £1 *rs.* per day, and that it should be competent for any accredited reporter for the press to attend all meetings of Council, in order that the public might be informed of their proceedings. The Burgh Reform Act received the Royal assent in September following; and the Commissioners under the authority of that act visited Paisley on the 11th September following, to divide the town into wards. At a public meeting held on the 13th September, a committee of twenty-one was appointed to make such a division of the town as they might deem advantageous, and to appoint a committee of their number to meet with the Provost, Magistrates, and Commissioners, and to submit such division for their consideration. The Commissioners—Mr. R. Bell and Mr. R. Handyside, advocates, Edinburgh—had an interview with the Magistrates and Committee. No decision was come to, but the Commissioners promised to return. They did not, however, come again; but after a visit of the Town-Clerk to Edinburgh, at their request, the town was divided into five wards, the same as they are at present (1884). The plan of Paisley in this book shows the ancient burgh boundary, along with the parliamentary boundary.

On the 8th October following, a meeting of electors was held in the Old Low Church, to receive the report of the ward-dividing committee, and to discuss and decide upon other important matters relating to the approaching elections. Mr. Hugh Macfarlane was called on to preside. After hearing a report from the committee, their proceedings were approved of, and a vote of thanks was passed to them. The meeting afterwards carried unanimously a series of resolutions relating to the future procedure of the electors under the new Burgh Act. These were in effect—that the assessors for the poor rates, and managers for the poor and statute labour trust, should be elected by the ratepayers; that the corporation property should be economically managed; that treating of every description, and all public entertainments with the town's funds, should be entirely abolished; that every effort should be made to get the number of councillors increased; that a central committee, consisting of five from each ward, should be appointed to select proper candidates for the office of councillor; and that all laws should be repealed which press unequally on the town and county.

As it was the first time any of the inhabitants had an opportunity of choosing their representatives at the Council Board, the greatest excitement prevailed, and numerous candidates were nominated in all the wards. While sixteen councillors were to be elected, there were no fewer than thirty candidates brought forward.¹ Among the

¹ The following is a list of the candidates for the five wards, with the number of votes given for each candidate. The first column in each case shows the successful candidates.

<i>First Ward.</i>			
R. Hendry,.....	107	Thomas Glen,.....	76
John Dunlop,.....	106	James Coats,	72
Robert Bisset,.....	103	John Bell,.....	53

numerous changes made after the election was a resolution by the new Bailies to discontinue the ancient practice of walking together to the church on Sundays preceded by the town officers with their halberds. The halberds carried by the town officers at that and the present time may be said to be somewhat ornamental. We have, however, been assured by those who have seen the halberds used by the town officers in the second decade of this century that they were of quite a different form, and partook more of the shape of the weapon called the Jeddart staff or axe, of which we gave a drawing at page 190 in the first volume of this work. Indeed, it is very likely that the halberd in use before the present kind was certainly the Jedburgh or Jeddart staff; for in January, 1602, those sent to watch at the East and West Ports during the time of threatened pestilence were, as already stated, ordered to be armed with "ane sword and Jedburgh staff." The town officer also who on 27th July, 1711, as formerly described, stabbed a horse at the race-course, must have had in his possession a very different weapon from the present halberd. We give on the opposite page a drawing of the halberd at present in use.¹

The Council also resolved to let the Magistrates' seats in the High and Middle churches.

At first, and for a long time afterwards, the Council meetings were

<i>Second Ward.</i>			
Robert Patison,.....	134	A. H. Simpson,.....	80
James Drummond,.....	131	James Lamb,.....	74
John Henderson,.....	107	David Bain,.....	65
<i>Third Ward.</i>			
William Brown,.....	115	David Ritchie,.....	73
William Jeffrey,.....	111	James Forbes,.....	50
Dewar Watson,.....	84	Thomas Gilmour,.....	23
<i>Fourth Ward.</i>			
John Orr,.....	252	Hugh Macfarlane,.....	135
Robert Cochran,.....	156	John Muir,.....	113
Robert Farquharson,.....	153	Robert Muir,.....	105
Alexander Carlile,.....	145		
<i>Fifth Ward.</i>			
James Clark,.....	154	William Forrest,.....	70
William Hardie,.....	106	John Kerr,.....	48
Thomas Calderwood,.....	101		

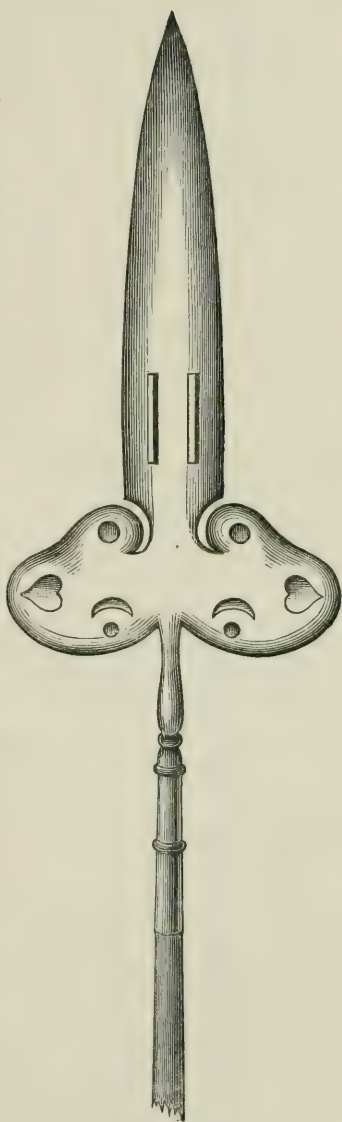
The following table shows the number of electors entitled to vote, the number that did vote, and the number that kept back from the poll in each ward :—

WARDS.	Total.	Disqualified.	Voted.	Did not Vote.
First,.....	211	9	177	25
Second,.....	257	21	203	33
Third,.....	220	15	164	41
Fourth,.....	346	25	274	47
Fifth,.....	227	10	165	52
Totals,.....	1261	80	983	198

¹ The halberds used at present by the Glasgow city officers are of the ancient battle-axe kind, and are formidable-looking weapons. They are not in James Drummond's list of ancient Scottish weapons.

held weekly at eight o'clock evening, and generally lasted from two to three hours. As reporters for the press were then admitted for the first time, the proceedings of Council were fully reported in the newspapers. Prior to the Burgh Reform Act, the three Bailies were allowed an annual salary of forty merks (£2 4s. 5½d.); and on 18th February, 1834, the Council agreed, after much discussion, by a majority, that the Magistrates' and Fiscal's salaries should be henceforth discontinued, and that the present Magistrates be requested not to draw the current salaries. The Fiscal's salary was ten pounds Scots (16s. 8d.).

A public dinner, at which 140 were present, took place in the Saracen's Head Inn, — Sheriff Campbell in the chair, — on 20th May, 1834, the anniversary of the King's birthday; and although all the magistrates were present, Provost Hardie was absent. This occurrence gave rise to some dissatisfaction on the part of several of the magistrates and of the inhabitants. At a meeting of Council held on the 27th of that month, the Council by a majority "approved of the course the Provost had pursued in this matter, under the circumstances in which he was placed." The Council records, unfortunately, do not state what the circumstances were.¹ A petition was signed by a number of the inhabitants requesting permission for the public to be admitted at the Council meetings; and on 7th February, 1835, the



HALBERD.

¹ Provost Hardie, in a letter of 24th May to the newspapers, stated:—"I did not decline presiding in honour of His Majesty's birthday, but only the putting of my name at the head of the list to get up a meeting for that purpose, — an act which, without knowing who were the parties likely to be present, I consider would be both below my own dignity and the dignity of the office I hold."

Council agreed by a majority "to admit the public to their deliberations, under such restrictions as it appears necessary to impose."

At the election of the Provost and Bailies in November, 1841, Mr. William Barr, writer, who was a disappointed aspirant to the Provostship, complained that a certain number of the Councillors met in the Treasurer's house on the previous evening and determined who should be appointed as the new Provost and Bailies on the following day, and moved as follows:—"1. That, whereas he has been credibly informed, and offers to prove, that the order of election of a Provost and Bailies was all settled last night by a regular vote of nine Councillors who should be Provost and who should be Bailies; that this be declared a most unconstitutional interference with the freedom of election. 2. That whereas there are only three gold chains and four bailies, that the three chains, belonging to the community, should be converted into the current coin of the realm and applied to the exigencies of the burgh. 3. That the election of Provost and Bailies ought to be made by ballot." At the following meeting of Council, Mr. Barr said he would not press his motion to a division.

In 1844 Mr. Barr was again a candidate for the Provostship along with Mr. David Murray. On the vote being taken, each of them had the same number of supporters. These were as follows:—For Mr. Murray: Bailie Paton, Councillors Murray, Coats, Clark, M'Nair, Wilkie, Todd, and Bailie Telfer,—8. For Mr. Barr: Councillors Kirkland, Barr (sen.), Campbell, Barr (jun.), Snodgrass, Reid, Semple, Robin,—8. Bailie Paton, as Senior Bailie, was in the chair, and gave his casting vote in favour of Mr. Murray. Mr. Barr, in thanking those who voted for him, stated that he (Mr. Murray) might be assured that he would not hold the office long. He would lose his seat as sure as the sun was in the firmament. All this vapouring of Mr. Barr's, although he renewed his protest at the next meeting of Council and threatened to take remedy in law, never went further, and he was afterwards known by the *sobriquet* of the "Firmament Provost."

In the previous chapter we noticed the important and interesting circumstance of the establishment of the first newspaper in Paisley—the *Paisley Advertiser*. As already stated, the first editor was Mr. James Goldie. His first paper was issued 9th October, 1824, and his last 25th February, 1826. He died 27th February, 1826. He was a native of Ayr, and published in 1822 in Ayr a volume of poetry. The second editor was Mr. William Kennedy. His first paper was issued 25th March, 1826, and his last 17th May, 1828. He was for some time British Consul in Texas, and published in 1841 an account of the rise, progress, and prosperity of that country; he also was the author of a volume of poetry entitled *Fitful Fancies*, besides many other beautiful lyrics. He died in 1849. The third editor was Mr. William Motherwell. His first paper was issued 24th May, 1828; his last,

9th October, 1830. Mr. Motherwell left the *Advertiser* for the *Glasgow Courier*, which paper he conducted till the day of his death, 1st November, 1835. Mr. Motherwell's literary works are well-known and highly and justly appreciated. The fourth editor was Mr. Robert Hay. His first paper was issued 16th October, 1830, and his last 27th July, 1844. Mr. Hay became sub-editor to Mr. Motherwell on 6th March, 1830, and on the departure of Mr. Motherwell to Glasgow he assumed the full management. Mr. Hay conducted the *Advertiser* with great consistency and ability, and was, besides, universally respected. He was the author of "Sam Spritsail" that appeared in the *Paisley Magazine*, published in 1828. Mr. Hay died on the 10th of June, 1847. In 1844 the title of the newspaper was altered to *Renfrewshire Advertiser*. The fifth editor was Mr. Andrew Bell. His first paper was issued 3rd August, 1844, and his last 28th September in that year. The sixth editor was Mr. Wm. Wallace Fyfe. His first paper was issued on 5th October, 1844, and his last 11th September, 1846. The seventh editor was Mr. William Wilson. His first paper appeared 18th September, 1846. Mr. Wilson joined as sub-editor under Mr. Fyfe, 14th March, 1846. The last paper published was on 20th April, 1850, when the interest of the *Renfrewshire Advertiser* was transferred to the *Glasgow Constitutional* newspaper.

On 13th February, 1834, a weekly newspaper, under the name of the *Western Independent, and Paisley, Johnstone, and Renfrewshire Newsman*, was first published in Paisley. The Voluntary War, as it was frequently termed, raged violently at that time, and this newspaper was started by those advocating voluntary principles, or as stated in the prospectus issued at its start, "the immediate and entire dissolution of the connection between church and state."¹ It continued only a few months. The editor was Mr. James Adam, a native of the town, who afterwards conducted successfully the *Aberdeen Herald* till his death.

Another weekly newspaper called *The Glasgow Saturday Evening Post, and Paisley and Renfrewshire Reformer*, was published in Glasgow and in Paisley at the same time. The politics of this newspaper were also ultra-radical, and the Paisley department was conducted by Mr. John Henderson, who was Provost of Paisley from November, 1841, till November, 1844. It had a large circulation — greater than that of any other Glasgow newspaper.

Before the opening of the Railway² from Paisley to Renfrew in

¹ The Paisley Voluntary Church Association was formed at a meeting held in the Rev. Mr. Smart's Church, on the evening of 14th January, 1833. The Rev. Dr. Thomson was appointed president; Mr. William Hardie and Mr. John Muir, vice-presidents; Messrs. Hugh Macfarlane and Thomas Watson, jun., secretaries.

² The first reference to a railway in the Council records was on 4th March, 1802, in these words:—"The Magistrates submitted to the meeting a letter from Mr. Edington, of the Clyde Iron Works, relative to a projected iron rail-road betwixt Glasgow and Greenock, but the meeting consider themselves not possessed

1837,—the Railway from Glasgow to Ayr, by Paisley, in 1840; and the Railway from Paisley to Greenock in 1841,—the different public means of conveyance for passengers and goods in connection with Paisley, were the Canal, the coaches, and the carriers, between Paisley and Glasgow and other places in the West of Scotland; and the small passage-boats on the river Cart, between Paisley and the steam vessels on the Clyde. As already stated, the first kind of passenger boats on the Canal took two hours to travel between the two towns, and carried about 120 passengers. In 1832 that class of boats was superseded by light gig-boats, made of sheet iron, the invention of William Houston, Esq. of Johnstone Castle. They only cost about £50—drew one foot of water—and were drawn by two horses—a boy to control them riding on the last one. Their speed was between eight and nine miles an hour, and they carried a hundred passengers. The fare for each passenger in the cabin was ninepence, and in the steerage sixpence. This mode of conveyance was very popular. One of these boats started for Glasgow from the Canal Basin, Paisley, every hour from nine o'clock morning till eight o'clock at night; and from Port-Eglinton, Glasgow, to Paisley, every hour from nine o'clock morning till nine o'clock at night. The number of passengers carried was:—in 1831, 79,455; in 1832, 148,516; in 1833, 240,062; in 1834, 307,275; in 1835, 373,290; and in 1836, 423,186. The number of tons of goods carried on the Canal in 1831 was 48,191; and in 1836, 67,305.

Notwithstanding the great number of passengers who thus travelled by the canal boats between Paisley and Glasgow, there were many also who went by the numerous coaches that traversed the road between the two places. In 1827, and onward to the opening of the railway, a coach started daily from Paisley to Glasgow every hour between nine o'clock morning and nine o'clock evening, and the same number arrived at Paisley from Glasgow. On Wednesdays there were extra coaches; and the number of passengers travelling daily was estimated at 200. The fares were 1s. 6d. inside and 1s. for the basket and the outside. Mr. William Lyon was one of the most enterprising of the owners of these coaches, which were called "The Sons of Commerce." Indeed, the coaches that travelled between Paisley and Glasgow were generally called "Lyon's coaches."¹ A coach from Glasgow passed daily through Paisley

of sufficient information to decide with regard to the propriety of the measure, and are of opinion that they should not, as a community, enter at present into any stipulation on the subject."

¹ He was a native of Paisley, and when a youth was apprenticed by his father to the loom; but disliking the weaving trade, he joined the army by enlisting in a regiment of artillery. He was engaged in the bombardment of Copenhagen in 1807, and was afterwards in the Peninsular wars. In the disastrous retreat to Corunna he was one of the followers of the brave Sir John Moore. By his good behaviour and bravery in the service he was raised to the rank of a subordinate officer in the artillery corps. On leaving the army, Mr. Lyon returned to Paisley in 1822, and became a coach proprietor, as already stated. For some years before his death in 1848 he resided in Glasgow. A severe apoplectic shock ended his useful life.

to Beith and Saltcoats during the winter, and two coaches in the summer time, which returned the same day. Coaches also went to and from Renfrew and Neilston. A steam coach commenced to run between Paisley and Glasgow in 1834. It was elegantly fitted up, and could hold six passengers inside and twenty outside. The axle of the hind wheel was propelled by two engines of fourteen horse power each. On the 29th July in that year, when on its way from Glasgow to Paisley, and while standing opposite the Half-way House, the boiler burst, and many of the passengers were injured, four of them fatally.

In 1834 the number of passengers who travelled by the small boats drawn by horses on the river Cart to and from the steamers on the Clyde, and by steamers to the coast, was estimated at 46,680. One of these steamers, of 32 tons burden, was named the Gleniffer.

A company was formed in 1834 to make a railway from Paisley to Renfrew. The Act of Parliament they applied for received the Royal assent in 1835, and operations were commenced on 29th September in that year. The railway was opened for traffic on 3rd April, 1837. The first class fare was sixpence and the second class fourpence. There were four passenger-trains daily each way, and the traffic was considerable till the railway from Paisley to Greenock was opened, when it became so much reduced that locomotive power had to be abandoned, and horses were used instead. The railway was sold in 1846 by the shareholders to the Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company, who connected it with the Joint-Railway at Greenlaw, thereby giving a railway communication between Glasgow and Renfrew, and another station to those residing at the Renfrew Road.

The year 1837 was distinguished by a company obtaining Parliamentary powers to make a Railway from Glasgow to Ayr, and by another company to construct a Railway from Glasgow to Greenock, both lines passing through Paisley. These important undertakings, for the conveyance of passengers, goods, and minerals, by this new mode of transit, were looked upon with great favour, as being destined to facilitate the intercourse of people distant from one another, and a great public benefit in many ways. The part of these Railways between Glasgow and Paisley was termed the Joint-Line, on account of its being the joint-property of these two companies. The formal opening of this part of the railway took place on 13th July, 1840, amidst great rejoicings. A company, amounting to about three hundred, among whom were many ladies, left Glasgow for Paisley on that day, in nineteen carriages, drawn by two locomotives. The County Buildings, Railway Station, and many of the surrounding houses, were decorated with flags. Almost every window from which a view could be obtained was crowded, and the roof of the County Buildings was covered with a fashionable company. All the streets in the vicinity were crowded, and the whole area in front of the County Buildings was filled with

a dense mass of people. The Paisley band, in their uniform, were in attendance; and the bells were likewise rung. The company assembled in the Station buildings; and after partaking of refreshments, returned by railway to Glasgow. The Directors entertained about 160 gentlemen at dinner in the Tontine Hotel there,—R. D. Ker, Esq., Greenock, the Chairman of the Joint-Line of Railway, being in the chair.

The part of the Glasgow, Paisley, Kilmarnock, and Ayr Railway, from Ayr to Irvine, was opened for public traffic on 5th August, 1839; the part from thence to Kilwinning on 23rd March, 1840; from thence to Beith on 21st July; and the whole line on 11th August, 1840. On that day a railway train, with twenty-one carriages filled with the company invited, left Glasgow for Ayr, drawn by two locomotive engines,—the one being called “The Bruce,” and the other “Cutty Sark.” An instrumental band occupied the front carriage. The railway train arrived at Ayr Station amidst the enthusiastic cheers of a great concourse of people. The Directors entertained a company of about 450 gentlemen at dinner in the engine and carriage buildings, which were fitted up in a temporary manner for the occasion.

The Glasgow, Paisley, and Greenock Railway was formally opened on the 30th March, 1841. A railway train, bearing the company invited, left Greenock for Glasgow on that day. Where that railway joins the Ayrshire Railway at Stoney Brae, Paisley, a triumphal arch, formed of evergreens and flowers, was erected across the line, having over it the motto, “*Sic arte vicimus.*” The railway train, after going to Glasgow, returned to Greenock, and the directors entertained a company of 240 in the Tontine Hotel. These divergent railway lines have proved an incalculable boon in developing the manufacturing industries of Paisley.

The General Session of the three Established Churches in the burgh founded a school in each of the town parishes for the purpose of imparting elementary instruction at a moderate price. Reading, writing, and arithmetic were taught for the small charge of twopence per week. No sectarian line of exclusion was drawn, children of every religious denomination being admitted on the same terms. The first of these schools was erected in George Street for the High Parish, and was opened in May, 1834. Another was erected at the head of Causeyside, for the Low Parish; and the third, for the Middle Parish, was erected in New Sneddon Street. All these Sessional schools, as they were called, were fitted up in an exceedingly commodious manner, and possessed the advantages of excellent light and air, and a convenient playground for the children. They proved very successful, always being well filled with scholars.

The original Paisley Temperance Society or Association for the Prevention and Cure of Intemperance, was instituted in 1829, and

the first public meeting was held on the 5th April, 1830. In 1830 a youths' society, having the same title and with the same object in view, was also formed. The associations were based upon the principle that their members should abstain entirely from distilled spirits, but they were allowed to use fermented liquors. The report of the society was read at the first annual meeting held in April, 1831. The Rev. Mr. Smart was president; Messrs. William Lyall, John Hart, and William Brownlie, vice-presidents; Mr. David Fulton, treasurer; and Messrs. Robert Philips and Matthew M'Gown Hart, secretaries; along with many members in the General Committee. At that time there were, as stated in that report, about 1300 members after deducting those who had joined and afterwards broken the pledge. When Mr. Finch, of Liverpool, visited Paisley in 1836, he delivered a public lecture in the Old Low Church, on 21st September, in favour of the total abstinence principle. The lecture produced such a powerful impression that at the close of the meeting fifty individuals subscribed the pledge of total abstinence from alcoholic liquors. In October following, at a meeting of the pledged abstainers called for the purpose, they agreed to form themselves into an association to be designated the Paisley Total Abstinence Society. By means of sermons, Saturday evening social meetings in the Renfrewshire Tontine Assembly Rooms, the distribution of numerous tracts, and the influence of district committees, the exertions of the society were rewarded by having at the end of 1838 upwards of 2000 members (*West of Scotland Temperance Standard*, p. 4). There is no doubt that this society has been the means of doing an immense amount of good in the town.

No efforts of any importance were made to improve the navigation of the river Cart from the end of the last century, as already noticed, till 1835. In the period of great distress in 1826 and 1827, many of the unemployed weavers were engaged in repairing the towing-path and the banks of the river, but not in any way to deepen its channel. When the first Town Council chosen by the electors came into power, the improvement of the navigation of the river was the most important measure that engaged their attention. On 22nd April, 1834, they appointed a committee to enquire and report as to the best means of improving the river. Mr. Hughes, C.E., Glasgow, who had been desired to give his opinion on the same matter, submitted his report.

It bore the date 9th August, 1834, and stated — "I have taken the levels and soundings of the river Cart from the Sneddon Bridge at Paisley to its junction with the river Clyde, with the view of ascertaining the practicability of improving its navigation." The depth of the water in the shallowest places at ordinary spring tides he found to vary from five feet seven inches in different places to six feet four inches at the town. The fall "from low water at the quay to low water in the Clyde" was two feet four inches. He stated there were "three modes of improving the navigation of the

river Cart :—" 1. To deepen the channel so as to obtain nine feet water during spring tides, admitting the flow and ebb of the tides as at present. 2. To deepen the river until twelve feet water are obtained during ordinary spring tides, also admitting the flow and ebb of the tide. By adopting this plan, the navigation of the Cart would be equal to that of the Clyde up to Glasgow. 3. To convert the river into a wet dock by deepening its channel to twelve feet, as above, placing a lock at the termination of the towing-path (then at the north end of the canal), keeping the water between the lock and Paisley always at the level of ordinary spring tides, and by increasing the depth between the lock and the river Clyde, a distance of only six hundred yards. By this method, the vessels which now go up to Glasgow at high water could get up to Paisley at low water." Mr. Hughes estimated the cost to obtain nine feet water at £7866 19s. 7d., and twelve feet water at £18,665 18s. He only proposed a lock after the channel was deepened to twelve feet, the cost of which he estimated at £6226 1s. 3d., the two together being £24,891 19s. 3d.

A committee of Council who had been appointed to meet with Mr. Campbell of Blythwood regarding the extension of the towing-path from the north end of the canal, where it then terminated, to the river Clyde, reported that Mr. Campbell readily agreed to the proposal, but on the condition (1st) that a fence be erected, such as a stone parapet wall not higher than two feet high, and a malleable iron railing not less than five feet high fixed on the same, or a malleable iron railing seven feet high without a stone parapet wall; and (2nd) that he receive the annual rent of the ground to be occupied for the towing-path.¹ The committee appointed on 22nd April reported thus on 19th September :—

"Your committee have to report that the improvement of the river Cart is one of the greatest measures that has occupied the attention of the Council, and therefore beg their sincere attention to it. Your committee highly approve of the report by Mr. Hughes generally, and are fully convinced that the most extensive measures for the improvement of the river proposed by him would ultimately repay the cost of the operations. Considering all circumstances, however, your committee would recommend to the Council the adoption of the first plan proposed by Mr. Hughes—that is, to deepen the river to nine feet at ordinary spring tides, the cost amounting to £8000; and would recommend further that the Council go into this plan provided the feuars in the burgh and whole constituency do not object to it, regularly called to a public meeting."

The Council agreed to this report, and called "a public meeting of the feuars in the burgh and the whole constituency of the town of Paisley, to be held in the Old Low Church on Friday first a

¹ This agreement was in effect confirmed by the Act of Parliament afterwards obtained, but Mr. Campbell never made any charge for the ground so taken.

seven o'clock evening, to take into consideration the plans [and reports obtained by the Town Council relative to the deepening and improvement of the river Cart; and when the feuars and constituency will be required to say whether they recommend the improvement of the river be gone into. The area of the church will be exclusively appropriated to the feuars and electors.—Council Chambers, Paisley, 24th October, 1834.”

The meeting was well attended by influential gentlemen in the town, and Provost Hardie was in the chair. After considerable discussion, the meeting almost unanimously, amidst reiterated shouts of applause, resolved in substance that the measures of the Council be approved of, and that they be recommended to proceed with the operations to such an extent as will give at least a depth of three feet of water at the quay at ebb tide, and to place the river otherwise in such a state that steam vessels may ply at all states of the tide. The amendment made to the motion — that the consideration of the subject should be postponed to another meeting, to give time to examine Mr. Hughes's report and plans — met with little support. There was read to this meeting by one of the Magistrates a letter from Mr. Hughes to the Council, guaranteeing the accomplishment of the work at the estimated sum; and also a letter from Mr. Napier, Kilmun, offering to pay the interest of the money expended for the exclusive privilege of plying by steam vessels on the river, provided that a depth of three feet of water was maintained at low water.

An Act of Parliament was applied for, and received the Royal assent 17th June, 1835, empowering the Town Council to carry on the necessary works, and to borrow money for that purpose.

The first meeting of the Trustees, under the new Act of Parliament, was held on 21st July, 1835. Besides other business, they appointed Mr. Gavin Lang, the Town-Clerk, to be Clerk to the Trust; Mr. Robert Brown, the Town Chamberlain, to be Treasurer; and agreed to meet weekly upon Tuesday, at seven o'clock evening. The Trustees applied for a loan of £18,000 to the “Board of Commissioners for the loan of Exchequer Bills for Public Works.” The Board expressed their willingness to grant the request, provided that upon the survey and report of an engineer, to be employed by the Board at the expense of the Trustees, it should appear to be a practical and desirable work, and capable of being executed at a cost not exceeding £18,600, the sum stated by Mr. Hughes to be requisite for obtaining twelve feet of water in the river at high tide. The conditions connected with the loan were, that the Trustees should first borrow £6000 from the corporation and expend the same on the river works; and the Board would afterwards advance £12,000, having a collateral security from the corporation for the one-half of this amount. The Trustees having favourably entertained this proposal, the Board sent Mr. M'Neil, C.E., to survey the river, and he reported favourably regarding the proposed improvements. As the Trustees afterwards made different financial

arrangements, nothing further was done with regard to this proposed loan.

Within five years after obtaining the Act of Parliament, the money expended upon the works agreed upon was as follows:—

Dredging-machine and punts,	£4605	2	3
New swing-bridge at Inchinnan,	4225	12	0
Fence at river-side on the grounds of Blyths-wood,	861	9	0
Rock-cutting at Merksworth,	337	18	9
Widening the Canal,	1063	6	3
Quay at Carlile Place,	3307	4	7
Crane at Carlile Quay,	187	9	0
Property, Carlile Place,	1157	10	8
Dredging operations,	4292	0	11
	<hr/>		
	£20,037	13	5

By the Act of Parliament the Trustees were authorised to borrow to the extent of £30,000; and to enable them to meet their expenditure, they borrowed £6000 from the corporation, and £6000 from the Bank of Scotland. The latter sum was guaranteed by private patriotic gentlemen belonging to the town who were favourable to the improvement of the navigation of the river.¹ There was also £9148 11s. 2d. lent by sundry persons to the Trustees, through the River Cart Savings Bank,² on the security of the revenues of the river, making in all £21,148 11s. 2d.

When the financial affairs of the Town Council became embarrassed in December, 1841, the Cart Trustees were compelled to suspend payments also. The state of the trade of the town and the condition of the inhabitants being then so deplorable, the depositors of money were under the necessity of calling it up. The financial affairs of the River Cart Trust at this time were altogether unsatisfactory, the liabilities being very considerable and the assets of small amount.

By the Act of 1835 the repayment of the sum of £27,401 4s. 3d., then owing to the community, was postponed, and all money borrowed subsequently to that period was preferable debt. The first sum, with interest then added to it, amounted to £37,286 13s. 7d. By the same Act the Town Council were empowered to lend or to become guarantors to the Cart Trustees to the amount of £12,000. This sum was wholly received by the Cart Trustees, the sum of

¹ These were James Clark, thread manufacturer; Matthew Slater, starcher; Thomas Callender, currier; Hugh Macfarlane, manufacturer; Alexander Carlile, thread manufacturer; James Forbes, manufacturer; John Pinkerton, feuar; William Hardie, tobacconist; and James Taylor, manufacturer.

² On 13th December, 1836, the Trustees agreed to receive deposits of money in sums of £1 and upwards, at five per cent., for the use of the Trust. Sums under £50 were repayable on demand, and above that amount by giving two months' notice.

£6000 having been received from the town and the remaining £6000 from the Bank of Scotland, which, as we have said, had a bond in security over the dues and properties of the river, along with collateral personal security. The gentlemen who gave their names received a back bond of security from the Town Council over the properties and revenues of the community. In 1838 the Town Council, for the purpose of enabling the Cart Trustees to borrow more money to complete the river improvements, in addition to the £12,000, agreed to postpone and relieve the Trustees not only of the £6000 they had advanced themselves, but also to pay the interest on the £6000 advanced by the Bank of Scotland, for which they were security.¹ The interest due to the town at that time, in addition to the £12,000, was £2335 3s. 11d. There was also due to the depositors in the Cart Savings Fund at that time, including interest, the sum of £9147 11s. 5d. The financial affairs of the River Cart Trust, and also those of the Corporation, were all arranged by an Act of Parliament passed in July, 1843.

The following is a statement of the annual revenue of the River Cart, at intervals of five years or thereby, during the first half of this century :—

1800,	...	£157	4	0	1830,	...	£252	11	8
1805,	...	182	18	0	1835,	...	341	19	1
1810,	...	242	5	11	1840,	...	584	9	6
1815,	...	174	14	7	1845,	...	402	5	0
1820,	...	191	0	0	1847,	...	482	12	4
1825,	...	270	16	5	1850,	...	536	7	8

The accession of George IV. to the throne happened on 29th January, 1820, and the Council resolved that the anniversary of His Majesty's birthday should be observed on 24th April "with proper demonstration of loyalty, and agreed to assemble at one o'clock of that day to drink His Majesty's health in former style on the stair-head in front of the Court-House at the Cross. It was also agreed that it would be expedient, from considerations of economy as well as from a desire to avoid giving offence to any individuals, to restrict the invitations on that occasion to persons in public situations; and the following enumeration was made out for the regulation of this matter, viz.:—The Magistrates and Council, Chamberlain, Clerk, and Procurator-Fiscal; the Sheriff-Depute and Substitute and Procurator-Fiscal for the County; the resident Justices of the Peace, the Established Clergy of the Town and Abbey, the Lord-Lieutenant and Vice-Lieutenants of the County, the regular Officers of the Army and Navy who may be in town, the Representatives of the County, the Officers of the Paisley Rifle Corps,

¹ To enable the community to meet this additional expenditure, the Council at this time raised the composition payable in cases of non-entry by singular successors, vassals of the town, from one-fourth part of the yearly rental of the subjects in non-entry for each transmission of the same, to the full composition authorised by law in such cases (*Council Records*, 25th September, 1838).

and the Superintendent of Police. It was also agreed that it would be proper to invite on such an occasion the Earl of Glasgow, Viscount Kelburne, the Hon. Colonel Stewart, Mr. Alexander of Southbar, Mr. Napier of Blackstone, and any other county gentlemen whom the Magistrates considered entitled to such respect; and it was recommended that the public bells should be rung from twelve till two o'clock, and in the evening from six till eight" (*Council Records*, 19th April, 1820). The arrangement thus commenced for celebrating the King's birthday annually in this public manner, first at the Cross and afterwards at the County Buildings when the old Tollbooth was taken down, continued till 1824. But in 1825 this immemorial custom of drinking the King's health in public was discontinued. One reason given in the public prints at that time for the abandonment of this ancient social practice, was that on a few of these occasions some of the Radicals in the crowd, instead of cheering or keeping silent when the King's health was proposed, actually indulged in hissing. The sum paid to the tenant of the Saracen's Head Inn for expenses connected with the King's birthday was in 1820 £18 18s.; and although the sum was not so great in the following years, we are inclined to believe that the observances were given up in consequence of their expense and from a desire to economise with the town's funds. In 1825 the demonstrations of loyalty were confined to having flags placed on the turrets of the County Buildings and having the bells rung at intervals during the day. The Paisley Rifle Corps, and the Staff of the Renfrewshire Militia, assembled at their usual muster-ground in the afternoon, and marched thence to the Barrack Square. On being formed into line, a Royal salute was given; the whole then grounded arms, when each man being duly supplied with wine, Captain Macalpine proposed the following toasts, which were pledged in bumpers, and accompanied by appropriate airs from the two bands:—"The King," "The Royal Family," "The Duke of York and the Army," "The Duke of Clarence and the Navy." The soldiers attached to the recruiting parties in town, who mingled with the spectators, were also served with wine; and the crowd uncovered at each toast, and made the air ring with acclamations, in which not a single discordant voice was heard. The military then gave three hearty cheers, fired a *feu de joie*, and marched to the town, where they were dismissed. In the evening a large party of gentlemen met in the Saracen's Head Inn,—Provost Farquharson in the chair,—to drink the King's health, along with other patriotic toasts. During the next four years the manifestations of loyalty on the King's birthday anniversaries were confined to the ringing of the public bells, the displaying of flags on the County Buildings, and a meeting of gentlemen in the evenings,—with the Provost presiding,—to drink His Majesty's health, along with other patriotic toasts. In 1830 the usual demonstrations were ordered by the Provost and Magistrates to be postponed, in consequence of the serious indisposition of His Majesty. King George IV. died, as

already stated, on 26th June following; and William, Duke of Clarence, third son of King George III., was proclaimed King, as William IV. On 13th July the Council agreed to "an address of condolence on the demise of his late Majesty, and of congratulation to the King on his accession to the throne." The funeral of his late Majesty was on 15th July; and agreeably to a suggestion of the Magistrates, the shops in town were all closed at six o'clock, as a mark of respect to his memory. During the first five years of William IV.'s reign, the annual birthdays on 28th May were celebrated by the customary exhibition of flags on the County Buildings; the ringing of the public bells from twelve till two o'clock afternoon, and from six till eight o'clock evening; and a number of gentlemen meeting in the evening,—with a Magistrate or Sheriff Campbell in the chair,—to drink His Majesty's health. In the last two years, however, of His Majesty's reign, the flags were displayed and the bells rung, but there were no official meetings held for the drinking of the King's health.

King William IV. died at Windsor Castle on the 20th June, 1837. For the event the public mind was fully prepared. Queen Victoria, in pursuance of a precept from the Crown Office, was proclaimed in this county on Saturday, 24th June. The Sheriff, accompanied by several official gentlemen and the Magistrates of Paisley, attended by two trumpeters and a suitable retinue, first proceeded to Renfrew, where they were received by the Magistrates of that burgh and by a number of resident gentlemen, and proclaimed Her Majesty in due form at the Market Cross. After partaking of refreshments, provided by the Magistrates of Renfrew, the procession returned to the County Hall, Paisley, where the members of Council, Justices of the Peace, Clergy of all denominations, Commissioners of Police, Stentmasters, Overseers of the Poor, and a great number of other gentlemen in mourning, were ready to receive them. There was a large concourse of the inhabitants assembled in County Square to witness the proclamation ceremony. The depot of the 91st Regiment fired a *feu de joie* there. At one o'clock the Sheriff, in his Court dress, ascended the temporary hustings that had been erected, and, after the trumpeters in attendance had sounded the signal for quietness, read the proclamation. The Sheriff and Magistrates, accompanied by the military and by all the gentlemen who had been in attendance, then marched in procession to the Cross, where, on a temporary erection,¹ Bailie Bisset, in the absence of the Provost, again read the proclamation. After some cheering from the people, the band first, and afterwards the trumpeters, played the National Anthem, which closed the public part of the ceremony. The gentlemen of the procession and the officers of the 91st Regiment, on the invitation of Bailie Bisset, then accompanied the Sheriff and Magistrates to the Saracen's Head Inn, where the health of the Queen and a few other public toasts were given. The flags

¹ This was the table of the Council Chambers, at present in use there.

were displayed during the day on the turrets of the County Buildings and the bells were rung during the afternoon.

On 27th June the Magistrates and Council agreed, as at the death of George IV., to present to Queen Victoria a loyal and dutiful address of condolence on the death of her late Royal uncle, and of congratulation on Her Majesty's accession to the Throne. In the first three years after Queen Victoria's accession to the Throne, the anniversaries of her birth were honoured by the usual ringing of bells and display of flags; and by a meeting of gentlemen in the evening, with the Provost in the chair, to drink her health, along with other appropriate toasts. After 1840, however, only the first two of these manifestations of loyalty were carried out on Royal birthdays. When Her Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg and Gotha were married on 10th February, 1840, the auspicious event was celebrated with demonstrations of rejoicing. Bells were rung and flags displayed. A public dinner, attended by sixty gentlemen, was also given in the Saracen's Head Inn—Sheriff Campbell in the chair.

It is not too much to say that the beautiful domestic life and the many public virtues of the Queen and her consort have done much to engender feelings of the purest loyalty in the hearts of many after this time.

CHAPTER XVIII.

1850 TILL 1884.



THE period extending from the middle of our century to the present time, has been by far the most important in the annals of Paisley for the establishment of educational institutions. These institutions are not confined to one department of intellectual culture, but are of all the various kinds deemed best fitted to meet the requirements of the present age. They comprise the School of Design, known also by the more appropriate name of the School of Arts; Ragged and Industrial School; John Neilson Endowment Educational Institution; Paisley Society for the Blind; Miss Kibble's Reformatory Institution; Academy in connection with the Grammar School; the Paisley (Burgh) School Board, established by Act of Parliament; and the Duncan Wright Endowment for educational purposes.

In 1836 an attempt was made by the Town Council to induce the inhabitants to take an interest in the establishment of a School of Arts. A public meeting of the inhabitants was held at the instance of the Council in the Old Low Church, on 12th May in that year, for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means of establishing a School of Arts in the town; but the attendance was so discouragingly small that it was deemed inadvisable to proceed with the business. It was not till ten years afterwards that a school of this kind was instituted. On 28th February, 1846, a meeting of gentlemen favourable to the foundation of a School of Design in Paisley, called by circulars and by advertisements in the newspapers, was held in the Council Chambers. There was a good attendance. The meeting was unanimously of opinion that the formation of a School of Design in Paisley would be of the greatest advantage to the town; and appointed a committee to make the requisite application to Government, and to adopt all other measures deemed necessary for the establishment of such an institution. At the first meeting, the committee appointed Provost Murray to be their president; and Mr. Robert Wilson, Town-Clerk, their secretary. The committee also forwarded a memorial to the President and Council of the Government School of Design, at Somerset House, London. The following is a copy of the memorial:—"That your memorialists have perceived with much satisfaction the Establishment of Schools of Design in various manufacturing towns of the country, and are deeply sensible of the importance and beneficial results which may be expected to accrue

to the manufacturers of Paisley from such an institution. That the said town contains a population of 60,000, chiefly employed in the manufacture of shawls, muslin, and other fancy figured fabrics, machine-making, iron-founding, &c., in all of which the art of design is of the utmost importance. The manufacturers, in addition to the population in the town, employ a great number of artisans in numerous towns and villages in Scotland,—in proof of which about two hundred pattern-drawers and designers are employed in the town. That it appears to your memorialists that Paisley is peculiarly adapted for the establishment of a Branch School of Design, from its being the seat and centre of a large manufacturing trade wholly of a fancy description, to the success of which the art of ornamental design is so essential, and that such an institution is calculated more than in any other town in the kingdom to benefit the industrious, and to improve the staple manufactures of the country. That at a numerous meeting of those interested in this matter, your memorialists have been appointed a provisional committee, and have the utmost assurance that the necessary amount of subscriptions will be forthwith collected, and that nothing further is required but the sanction and assistance of the Government Institution, providing a master or masters, and furnishing the usual pecuniary grants, and supply of models, works of art, and other requisites."

The application was complied with, and afterwards a good deal of correspondence took place regarding a suitable building for the school. At that time no premises could be found of which the general arrangements and structural accommodation were suitable for the purposes of the proposed institution. The committee therefore resolved to have a new building erected, and to raise subscriptions for this purpose. The committee fixed on a site in Gilmour Street, where the building now stands. Plans of the building were prepared by Mr. Lamb, architect, and approved of by the Committee of Management at Somerset House. The buildings during the course of their erection were repeatedly inspected by Mr. Wilson, the director from Somerset House, and other officials, and these gentlemen pronounced the school to be admirably adapted for the purposes intended, and one of the most complete Schools of Design in the United Kingdom (*Report by Committee to the Subscribers*, dated 1st August, 1848). The cost of the site for the school was £500, and of the buildings and furniture about £2500. As the subscriptions amounted to £1800, a debt of £1200 was incurred. The school was then fixed by the Committee of Management of the Board of Trade to be managed by a committee of fifteen gentlemen chosen by the subscribers. Laws and regulations for the management of the institution were adopted at this time. Mr. Wm. Stewart was appointed head master, and Mr. Peppercorn second master. On 4th December, 1848, when the school was opened, there was a large attendance of gentlemen, among whom were the Earl of Glasgow, Lord Blantyre, and Mr. Crum of Thorn-

liebank. On the 19th of that month the number of pupils attending the morning class was 19 males and 10 females, and the evening class 82 males. On 25th June, 1850, the occupation, &c., of the pupils attending the school stood thus—Sons of manufacturers, 5; pattern-drawers and their apprentices, 21; sons of pattern-drawers, 4; shopmen, 4; schoolboys, 9; carpenter, 1; engravers and lithographic printers, 2; house-painters, 2; calenderer, 1; jeweller, 1;—in all, 50. The amount received as Parliamentary grant for the year ending 30th June, 1851, was £400. The highest number of students on the books during the year 1851-2 was in February, 96; the smallest in September, 52; and the average of the year was 80. During the previous session the highest number on the roll was 78 in March, the smallest 49 in October, and the average 64. The highest number in the ladies' class was 19 in March, and the smallest 7 in September; the average was 15. During the preceding session the highest number was 13 in March, the smallest 2 in September; the average, 10. At this time a mechanical and architectural class was established.

In the session 1859-60 the highest number attending the classes in the morning was in April, 12; the lowest in September, 7; the average, 9. The highest number in the evening was in October, 70; the lowest in September, 46; and the average, 57. Outdoor teaching was given in schools besides to 500 young persons.

In October, 1860, the laws and regulations of the institution were amended. They stated that the institution shall be called "The Paisley Government School of Art," with a view generally to the widest diffusion of art education in the town and neighbourhood, and particularly to the study and practice of ornamental composition as applicable to manufactures. Instead of the fifteen directors being elected by the subscribers as hitherto, three were to be appointed by the Town Council.

In 1861, through a variety of causes, an additional debt of about £250 had accumulated since the institution was opened, and the directors resolved to appeal to the public for subscriptions to liquidate this debt. In the circular issued by them in making this appeal, they stated that "although the Government regulations regarding these schools have undergone several modifications since the establishment of this local branch, and the grants originally promised have been much reduced, still the income of the institution has on the whole very nearly met the expenditure." They further stated that, "considering the importance of an Art Institution to any, but especially to such a town as this, and considering further that no appeal has been addressed to the community on its behalf since 1846, the committee feel that they may with confidence trust to the public responding to the call now made." They stated also that "neither annual subscriptions nor donations had been received since the foundation of the school." The directors succeeded in obtaining the money that was wanted.

The sums received in 1862 from the Department in London

were:—Master's salary, £200; public schools, £38 15s.; prizes, £7 8s.; pupil teachers, £1 10s.; prize students, £4; and the fees received from pupils, one-tenth of which belonged to the master, £61; making the total income £312 13s. (*Records of the School*).

In 1864 the grants formerly given by the Government to the school in Paisley and in other towns were withdrawn, and in lieu thereof was substituted the system of payments on the results of teaching. By this resolution the head master's emoluments were greatly reduced. The representations and remonstrances by the directors to the Government against the proposed changes, with the view of having them modified or rescinded, was altogether unsuccessful. The directors were therefore compelled to enter into an arrangement with Mr. Stewart, the head-master, by which they were relieved of all responsibility of the institution beyond the maintenance of the building, which they accomplished from the rents paid by the tenants.

At the annal general meeting of subscribers held on 15th December, 1870, Mr. Stewart reported that the number of students enrolled was 124, and that the average monthly attendance was 71.

At this time the Town Council contemplated the purchasing of the School of Art Buildings, with the view of using them for municipal purposes. They offered £3300 for them; and at a special meeting of the subscribers, held on the 29th of that month, to consider this offer, they agreed to sell the buildings by public roup, making the upset price £3500. But no further steps were taken in the matter.

The total number of pupils on the roll, as reported to the subscribers at their annual meeting in December, 1880, was 187, being 9 less than in the previous year. Of these 60 were art students, being a decrease of 15; and 127 were science students, being an increase of 6. There were 25 students who attended more than one class. The number of pupils enrolled for the afternoon art class was 22, and for the evening class, 38.

In 1881 Mr. Stewart resigned, and the institution was put under the charge of Mr. Charles Hayes, who had acted previously as an assistant, and Mr. William Shedden. Under their management there was a great increase in the number of students attending the school. The total number of students on the roll in 1882 was 274, being 176 more than in the previous year. Of these 122 were art students, being an increase of 75; and 152 were science students, being an increase in the science class of 101. The number of pupils enrolled for the morning art class was 20; for the afternoon class, 21; and for the evening class, 81. The income from fees and payments on results was £264 12s. In the following year the institution continued to prosper. At the annual meeting of the subscribers, held on the 20th December, 1883, the report submitted showed that the total number on the roll was 288, being 14 more than in the previous year. Of these 125 were art students, being

an increase of 3; and 190 were science students, being an increase of 38. The number of art students enrolled for the day classes was 50, and for the evening class, 75. The income from fees and Government grant was £353 10s. The income from fees for this session showed an increase of £24 10s. The following is Treasurer Abercromby's statement of income and expenditure for the year then ending:—

INCOME FOR YEAR ENDING 20th DECEMBER, 1883.

Cash in Bank last year, ...	...	...	...	£195	6	7
Science and Art Department, ...	...	...	...	137	2	0
Rents, ...	...	...	...	132	5	0
Interest on Cash in Bank, ...	...	...	...	5	4	5
Subscription, ...	...	...	...	1	1	0
				<hr/> £470 19 0 <hr/>		

EXPENDITURE.

Masters:—Amount received from Science and						
Art Department paid them, ...	...	...	...	£137	2	0
Interest on Heritable Bond, less Income Tax,...	...	...	...	52	14	8
Feu-Duty, ...	...	...	...	9	15	4
Local Taxes, Advertising, and Incidents, ...	...	...	...	10	7	4
Income Tax (two years), ...	...	...	...	5	16	11
Fire Insurance, ...	...	...	...	2	11	6
Union Bank of Scotland—lodged ...	...	...	...	252	11	3
				<hr/> £470 19 0 <hr/>		

STATE OF FUNDS.

Heritable Bond, ...	...	...	...	£1200	0	0
Less Cash in Bank, ...	...	...	...	252	11	3
				<hr/> £947 8 9		
Amount of Debt last year, ...	...	...	...	1004	13	5
				<hr/> £57 4 8 <hr/>		

The first proposal made in Paisley to establish what were termed "Ragged Schools," which have accomplished so much good in checking and reclaiming juvenile delinquents, was in 1847. It was in Aberdeen that Mr. William Watson, sheriff-substitute there, first set the successful example in Scotland of this kind of schools a few years previously. Afterwards followed Dundee. The great object aimed at was the laying hold of vagrant children who were neglected by their parents or who had no parents alive, and thereafter by a careful system of upbringing to make them useful members of society. The first important meeting on the subject consisted of committees from the Town Council and from the Burgh and Abbey

Parochial Boards, held in the Council Chamber, on 11th April, 1847. After considering the matter, they resolved to convene a larger meeting, with the view of adopting measures to establish a Ragged School in Paisley. This meeting was held three days afterwards in the Court-Hall. It was numerously attended, and was composed of magistrates, members of Council, ministers of all denominations, members of the Parochial Boards, bankers, merchants, and other influential inhabitants. Sheriff Campbell was called on to preside. The meeting, after deliberating, appointed a committee to concert measures for the establishment of Ragged and Industrial Schools, which had proved so successful in Aberdeen and Dundee. This committee, after preparing rules and regulations as a basis for the contemplated schools, along with an estimate of the expense and other necessary information, called a public meeting of the inhabitants, to be held in the Court-Hall, on 9th November following, for the purpose of founding such an institution. This meeting was well attended by influential gentlemen, and Provost Murray was called to the chair. Professor Symington moved the following resolution :—"That there is a considerable number of destitute, neglected children in this town, who, having no regular means of living nor any moral superintendence on the part of their parents or relatives, are allowed to grow up in habits of vagrancy and crime ; that this class forms the great and increasing source of juvenile delinquency, which is the disgrace of our large towns ; and that there is an urgent call upon all who wish well to the community to take immediate steps to remedy this great social evil by reclaiming these children, and providing the means of raising their condition and enabling them to lead an honest and useful life ;" which motion was seconded by Robert Farquharson, Esq. of Allargue. The Rev. Patrick Brewster moved the following emendation on the motion :—"That the clause 'having no regular means of living' be changed to 'having been left by their parents and the Parochial Boards without any regular means of living.'" The motion was almost unanimously carried. The Rev. J. G. Wood proposed the next resolution :—"That these unfortunate children are not reached by any of the existing means of instruction, the irregular life which they lead in search of food by begging or stealing preventing their attendance at school, and rendering them averse to any kind of discipline ; that though convicted and sentenced to repeated imprisonments, it is found that they retain their vicious propensities and soon return to criminal habits ; and that it is necessary that a system should be adopted which, while it shall provide the children with wholesome food, and thereby take away the temptation to an irregular life, shall also provide a good common Christian education, training them at the same time to habits of industry, by employing them daily in such work as is suited to their years ;" which motion was seconded by Bailie Coats. The Rev. P. Brewster moved as an amendment that the word "stealing" be omitted, as stealing in their case was not felony ; but the motion was almost unanimously carried. The Rev. Dr.

Baird moved the following resolution :—" That this meeting therefore resolve that an association be now formed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining Industrial Schools in this town. That the following shall be the constitution and rules of the association, viz., to give the children an allowance of food for their daily support ; to instruct them in reading, writing, and arithmetic ; to train them in habits of industry, by instructing and employing them daily in such sorts of work as are suited to their years ; to teach them the truths of the Gospel, making the Holy Scriptures the groundwork of instruction, it being understood that the Holy Scriptures shall be read daily in the school ; a particular time shall be allotted for more enlarged religious instruction, and that the children of parents who object to the latter shall not be compelled to attend. On Sabbath the children shall receive food as on other days, and such religious instruction as shall be arranged by the Acting Committee." This resolution was seconded by Mr. Robert Rodger, and carried unanimously. The business of the meeting was brought to a close by the appointment of a numerous General Committee and an Acting Committee, proposed by Sheriff Campbell, for carrying the resolutions into effect. The Acting Committee, some time afterwards, proceeded to collect subscriptions for the support of the school, and also secured suitable premises in Dyers' Wynd for the institution.¹ It was not, however, till February, 1850, that the institution was open for the reception of children. After occupying the premises in Dyers' Wynd for three months, the committee were under the necessity of removing the school to Cawthorn Court, in Orr Square. By the end of July following there were 18 boys and 17 girls in the establishment. In January, 1851, a meeting of ladies was held, at which they resolved to form themselves into an association for superintending the female department of the school, and to arrange for the periodical visitation of it from week to week, and for an examination once a quarter. Mrs. Campbell of Blythwood was appointed president ; Mrs. Speirs of Elderslie, vice-president ; and Mrs. Thomson, secretary ; and to these appointments the ladies severally agreed. The first report of the directors was dated 2nd February, 1852, and relates to the management of the institution from the time it was opened down to 30th November, 1851. Among other matters, they state " The instruction furnished to the children consists of reading, writing, and the common rules of arithmetic, geography, and music. It is matter of deep regret that comparatively few remain sufficiently long at school to receive the writing, arithmetic, and geography. The girls are taught knitting and sewing, and are in rotation called to assist in the kitchen, with a view to fit them for the duties of domestic life. The boys have to some extent been employed in teasing hair and cotton, but it has been found more difficult to procure employment for them than the other sex. Your directors,

¹ Now the site of part of the Good Templars' Hall and the workshop of Mr. Kilpatrick, plumber.

however, are so strongly impressed with the importance of training to the habits of industry that they have made arrangements to obtain the services of tradesmen to teach the boys industrial occupations. The work of both sexes has been comparatively unproductive ; that of the girls consisting chiefly in making their own and boys' clothing. However, the value of the employment is not to be sought for in pecuniary return, but in the habits which it fosters." Referring to the pecuniary support given to the institution, they state :—"Supplemented as that subscription was by the liberality of Mrs. Campbell of Blythswood, who, in addition to the many other liberal charities to the school, gave two-thirds of the proceeds of the sale of a carpet (£84 15s. 10d.); by the proceeds of an oratorio by the Paisley Harmonic Society, which realised for the institution the sum of £49 3s. 10d.; and also by a donation of £10 from the Society for the Reformation of Manners. Your committee have to report that during the course of last year a number of ladies who have taken a warm interest in the school originated a proposal for a fancy bazaar in aid of the funds, which took place in October last, and realised the munificent sum of £1016 19s. 1d. after all expenses were paid. The directors feel that the best thanks of the public are due to all the ladies connected with this undertaking for the great exertion and zeal displayed in its arrangements." The directors also refer to the report by Mr. Bird, Governor of Paisley Prison, regarding juvenile crime, which had diminished nearly one-half, arising from the establishment of the Ragged School. The number of children remaining on the roll at 1st January, 1852, was 68.

As the accommodation afforded to the institution in Cawthorn Court was very unsatisfactory and much complained of, the directors eagerly looked out for more suitable premises. In November, 1854, they were fortunate in securing for £550 buildings which had been erected shortly before in Cart Lane, New Sneddon Street, to which the school was then removed.

In 1856 the importance of the institution was much increased by the legislature recognising the power of Ragged and Reformatory Schools in reaching cases of juvenile criminality. The institution was then put under the provisions of two statutes — one known as Lord Palmerston's — for dealing with juvenile criminals ; and the other as Mr. Dunlop's act, providing for cases of vagrancy. The Government also, by a minute of the Committee on Education, dated 2nd June in that year, undertook to pay half the rent of such schools ; half the salary of the teachers if certified, and their assistants ; one-third of the cost of tools, books, and raw materials of labour ; and an annual capitation grant upon every child who is provided with food as well as instruction, and is not otherwise paid by the Treasury. The directors were enabled by these means to secure superior teachers, and to employ master shoemakers and tailors for teaching the children these industries.

In 1866, when the number of children on the roll had increased to 102, the directors, in order to secure closer vigilance and better control

throughout the institution, resolved to place it completely under the charge of a superintendent and matron, who should be man and wife, and should reside therein. The superintendent, in addition to his ordinary course of school instruction, was to be responsible for the efficiency of the industrial training of the inmates; and the matron was to take the management of cleaning, cooking, and other household duties and internal arrangements, and to give her time to the guidance especially of the girls, thus giving to the school more of a family character. Mr. Thomson, the teacher at that time, and his wife, were appointed to these situations. Mr. Thomson was attacked with fever, and died on 12th February in the following year.

The subject of providing better accommodation for the increased number of scholars, again engaged the attention of the directors. In 1868 they purchased about three and a half acres of ground for £980, with entrances from Albion Street and Caledonia Street; and in the following year the building of the new institution was commenced. On 24th October, 1870, the inauguration meeting at the opening of the new institution was held. The building is commodious and handsome, and is surrounded with ample playground, with sufficient space to secure the complete separation of the sexes. In the new building, besides convenient class-rooms and apartments for industrial work, there is sleeping accommodation for 180 children, with all the requisite appliances for bringing up in comfort and decency this large number of young people. The directors thought at one time that the Reformatory and Vagrancy or Industrial Acts might be wrought together in the same establishment without any injury to the children, but they found this to be a mistake, and relinquished the Reformatory certificate.

The grant to Industrial Schools in England was 5s. per child per week, while the grant to schools in Scotland was 4s. 6d. In 1879 Mr. Holms, M.P. for the Burgh, was successful in carrying a resolution, that the allowance to Scotch schools should be increased to 5s.

The new institution had not been opened for many years when it was found that the capacity of the building was frequently taxed to the utmost in providing accommodation for the ever-increasing number of inmates. But in 1880 the erection of new workshops, at an expense of £500, enabled the directors to convert the old workshops into dormitories, capable of accommodating about fifty more children.

The following table shows the comparative average daily attendance and number sleeping in the institution for the last seven years:—

	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.
Average daily attendance,...	167.	179.	183.	188.	189.	176.	175.
Number sleeping in the institution 31st December, ...	179.	180.	192.	197.	183.	170.	176.

The following statement for the year 1883, taken from the report

of the directors, gives a very good insight into the way the time of the children is improved in this excellent institution :—

Time Table.—6 a.m. to 6.30, children rise, make beds, air rooms; in winter, half-an-hour later. 6.30 to 8 a.m., work—shoemaking, tailoring, hair-teasing, tassel-making, cleaning, &c. 8 to 8.30 a.m., breakfast. 8.30 to 9.30 a.m., wash, dress, play. 9.30 to 9.45 a.m., morning worship. 9.45 to 10 a.m., inspection as to cleanliness. 10 to 11.45 a.m., Bible and secular instruction, shoemaking, tailoring, hair-teasing, &c. 11.45 a.m. to 12 noon, play. 12 noon to 1 p.m., secular instruction, shoemaking, tailoring, hair-teasing, &c. 1 p.m. to 1.30 p.m., dinner. 1.30 to 2.30 p.m., drill, recreation, play. 2.30 to 4 p.m., secular instruction, shoemaking, tailoring, hair-teasing, &c. 4 to 4.15 p.m., play. 4.15 to 5 p.m. (girls), sewing, knitting, &c. 5 till 5.45 p.m. (girls), play. 4.15 to 5.45 (boys), shoemaking, tailoring, hair-teasing, &c. 5.45 to 6 p.m., wash, prepare for supper. 6 to 6.30, supper. 6.30 to 6.45, evening worship. 6.45 to 7.30, play, amusements. 7.30 to 9 p.m., evening classes for apprentices and older scholars. 9 to 9.15 p.m., prepare for bed. Special religious instruction, — Sunday evening, 5 to 6.30. Special nights for library, — Sunday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Special play and recreation, — Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. Brass band practice, — Monday and Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30. Boys' bath, — Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Girls' bath, — Friday evening. Schoolrooms, dormitories, and dining-hall scrubbed by boys and girls twice a-week. On an average, 9 hours are allotted to sleep; 6 hours to meals, play, &c.; 4½ hours to work, and 4½ hours to school, — total, 24 hours.

In the period embraced in this chapter it is gratifying to us to record the giving of many important and valuable donations to Paisley by her philanthropic sons. The large sum of money bequeathed by John Neilson, Esq., Nethercommon, for the establishment of an educational institution was the first of these great public gifts; and taking it all in all, and looking at what it has accomplished, it has perhaps been the most beneficial of all the gifts to the inhabitants. Mr. Neilson's father, whose name was also John, carried on the business of a grocer at the Cross towards the end of last century (*Tait's Directory*, 1783). At the termination of the first decade in the present century the name of the firm was John Neilson & Sons, the two sons, James and John, having been assumed partners by the father (*Bell's Directory*, 1812). Their place of business was never changed from No. 12 Cross.¹ The two brothers were never married. James, the eldest, died on 12th November, 1831, and John died on 6th November, 1839. By his deed of settlement he set apart a certain portion of the residue of his estate, amounting to £18,000, "to form and endow for the educating, clothing and

¹ These premises were totally destroyed in the great fire at the Cross on 12th November, 1833.

outfitting, and, if need be, the maintaining of boys who have resided within the Parliamentary boundary of Paisley for at least three years, whose parents have died either without leaving sufficient funds for that purpose, or who from misfortune have been reduced, or who from the want of means are unable to give a suitable education to their children." The institution was to be called "The John Neilson Endowment for the Educating, Clothing, and Outfitting of Young Persons." The testator gave ample and unlimited powers to his trustees for making all necessary regulations as to the number of boys to be admitted from time to time ; the manner in which they shall be educated, clothed, and outfitted, and maintained if considered expedient, but not otherwise ; and for the management of the funds of the endowment, as well as in regard to the appointment of teachers and other servants. But it was expressly provided that the education should be based on the Scriptures. Although the trustees were required to feu or purchase a piece of ground in Paisley, for the erection of an Institution House, at any time within five years, yet they were forbidden to commence building till after the expiry of that term. By this restriction they were not pressed to adopt any plan until they had given it mature consideration ; and in the meantime the funds would be accumulating, and thereby the trustees would be enabled to do more, and to do it better, than if hurried in any way in carrying out their plans. Mr. Neilson also made liberal bequests to his relations, and appointed for the management of his whole estates Messrs. Thomas Risk, banker ; Archibald Hodge, accountant ; Rev. James Graham, minister of the North Church ; and Archibald Gardner, writer, his nephew ; and to these gentlemen he gave power when the institution was fairly formed and set a-going, or at any time they might deem it advisable, to assume into the management or to devolve the trust on the Provost of Paisley, the Sheriff of Renfrewshire, the Sheriff-Substitute for the Upper Ward of Renfrewshire, the Convener of the Merchants' Society in Paisley ; but it was provided that if at any time any one or more of these public functionaries were not members of or sitters in the Church of Scotland, then he or they should not be eligible for the said office, but without prejudice to his or their successors in office acting if he or they are connected with the said Church as aforesaid ; and along with these public officers they are also to assume or devolve the trust on the minister of the Middle Church of Paisley, and the successor of the Rev. James Graham, and their successors in office. Power was also given to the trustees who should be in office at the time of the assumption or devolution being made, to name any other person or persons holding official situations, under the declaration foresaid, and to substitute others if they think it advisable and for the prosperity of the institution, in the room and place of those above designed as permanent trustees. Power was further given to the trustees to assume or appoint such other person or persons in whom they had full confidence to be trustees during their lives, although such persons should not hold official situations ;

and provision was otherwise made for carrying on the institution in all time coming. Mr. Neilson burdened the Endowment Fund with the payment of the following legacies, viz.:—£150 to the Dispensary and House of Recovery; £19 19s. to the Gaelic Missionary Society in Paisley, the Paisley Female Benevolent Society, the Blind Asylum in Glasgow, and the Church of Scotland Scheme for Providing School Districts in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

The trustees, in accordance with Mr. Neilson's deed of settlement, acquired land, within five years of his death, on which to erect the institution; and were fortunate in securing the town's bowling-green, the most conspicuous situation in the town, formerly the Prætorium of the Roman camp, as already mentioned, along with a field adjoining to the north-west of it for play-ground. On this elevated and central situation they erected a building alike substantial and beautiful, and forming one of the chief architectural adornments of the town. In the institution there are four spacious school-rooms, with class-rooms capable of accommodating from six hundred to seven hundred children in all.¹ The first two departments of the institution were opened on 15th April, 1852, and the following is a copy of the hand-bill that was circulated in the town intimating the opening:—

"The John Neilson Educational Institution, Oakshawhead, Paisley.—The first session of this institution will commence on Monday, the 15th April next. The English and Commercial Department by Mr. M'Millan and Assistants, from nine a.m. till half-past three o'clock p.m.; Saturdays, from nine to twelve. The Initiatory and Infant Department by Miss Bald and Assistants, from ten a.m. till three p.m.; Saturdays, from ten to twelve. The classes are to be conducted on the training system.

"Pupils on the Fund.—Schedules to be filled up by parents or guardians for admission of boys on the endowment fund, will be furnished by the janitor on application at the Institution, on and after Monday, the 15th instant; and the trustees will meet before the opening of the schools to consider such applications as may be lodged by the end of March. Boys eligible for admission on the fund must have resided within the parliamentary boundary of Paisley for at least three years, and whose parents have died without leaving sufficient funds, or who from misfortune have been reduced, or who from want of means are unable to give a suitable education to their children, and shall not exceed ten years of age.

"Pupils Paying Fees.—The teachers will attend during the week, commencing on Monday, the 29th curt., from ten forenoon to twelve noon each day, to enrol the names of pupils of all ages and conditions of life, whether boys or girls. The fees, payable in advance, are as follows:—For English reading, 2s. per quarter; English, with Grammar and Geography, 3s. per quarter; the above branches with Writing, or Writing and Arithmetic, 5s. per quarter. The first

¹ Dimensions:—North-west room, 67 feet by 33 feet; north room, 62 by 33; south room, 62 by 33; south-west room, 31 by 33; height of ceiling in all the rooms, 23 feet 11 inches.

quarter to extend to the first of August; and children admitted during that time to pay a quarter's fees.

"The classes to resume on first September.—On the play-ground the children will be superintended by the teachers and janitor, who shall direct the gymnastic exercises.

"Paisley, 4th March, 1852.

ARCHD. GARDNER, Secretary."

The advantages derived by scholars attending this seminary soon became known to parents and guardians, and it rose rapidly into great favour. In 1852, the first year of the institution, the number of pupils on the roll was 280, and the number has gradually increased year by year, till in 1883 the number was 935. The following shows the number of pupils attending the institution at different periods:—

		Pupils Paying Fees.		Boys on the Foundation.		Total.
1852,	...	205	...	75	...	280
1855,	...	417	...	24	...	511
1860,	...	433	...	105	...	537
1865,	...	425	...	132	...	557
1870,	...	538	...	114	...	652
1875,	...	696	...	153	...	849
1880,	...	741	...	140	...	881
1883,	...	787	...	148	...	935

Owing to the great increase in numbers, the trustees have been obliged to add to the buildings of the institution; but from the unity of design in the main building (it being in the form of a Greek cross with a central dome), they have made them detached buildings—one for the classical and industrial departments, one for the infant classes, and one for gymnastic training.

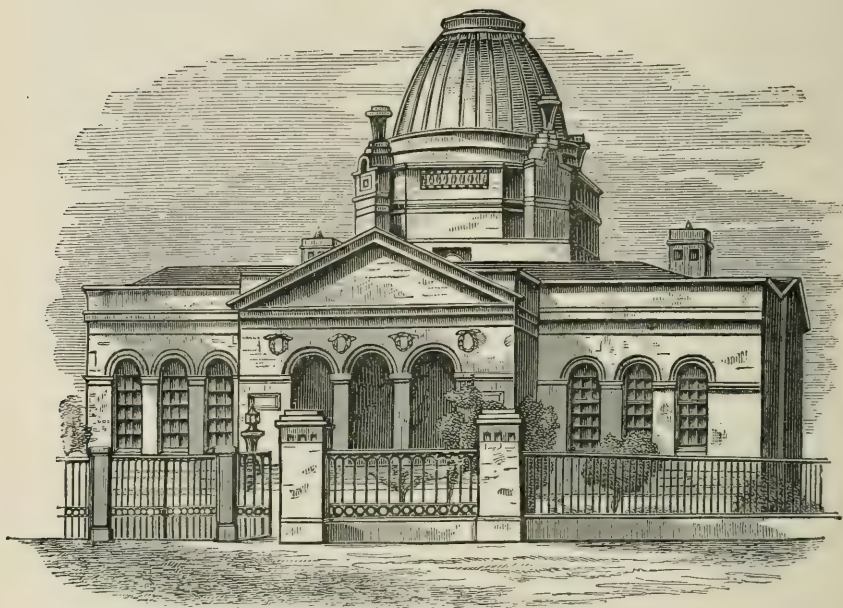
According to the annual report of the directors for 1883, "The average enrolment during the session was 922, of whom 533 were boys and 389 were girls. In the classical department, taking the average of the four quarters, there were 168 pupils taught Latin, of whom 45 were boys on the foundation; of the total number 38 were first year pupils, 35 second year, 48 third year, 26 fourth year, and 21 fifth year pupils. In Greek there were, taking the average, 11 pupils taught, of whom 3 were foundationers; and in mathematics there were 65 pupils taught, of whom 14 were foundationers. In the modern languages department there were 43 pupils enrolled in French, 8 of whom were foundationers; and 4 pupils received instruction in German. In addition to the above, 8 pupil teachers received instruction in Latin and Mathematics, and 2 in Greek; also 11 were taught French and German."

This institution has conferred no ordinary benefits on the youth of Paisley by its highly complete course of intellectual, moral, and religious training. Its success, as in all similar institutions, is to be attributed to the trustees having succeeded in securing teachers of zeal and ability. The institution has undoubtedly been a great

blessing to the whole community. Messrs. Daniel M'Millan, John Smart, John Laidlaw, and John Gray Thomson, have been the successive head-masters of the senior department.

The present trustees are Sheriff Cowan, Robert Kerr, Thomas Hodge, John A. Brown, and Francis Martin ; Mr. James Gardner being secretary and treasurer.

We give a view of the eastern elevation of this noble structure.



THE JOHN NEILSON EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

The Paisley Society for the Blind was established in September, 1859, for the purpose of meeting a very serious want that existed in the town, — that of an opportunity for the unfortunate blind to be taught to read. The first Committee of Management were: — Mr. Robert Brown, president ; Rev. William France, Rev. William Fraser, Rev. John Alison, Messrs. Peter Coats, Thomas Coats, David Murray, William M'Kechnie, J. M. Symington, Matthew Scott ; William Barbour, treasurer ; and Thomas Walker, secretary. They appointed Mr. Alexander Irvine, who had formerly been employed by a similar society in Edinburgh, to be teacher. The first annual meeting of the subscribers was held on 28th January, 1861 ; and the committee reported that the teacher had ascertained that the number of persons in the town who were so blind that they could not read ordinary type, was 41 males and 32 females, — in all, 73. There were under 15 years, 6 ; 15 and under 30 years, 3 ; 30

and under 50 years, 20 ; 50 and under 60 years, 18 ; 60 and under 70 years, 12 ; 70 and under 80 years, 14, — in all, 73. None of these were born blind, but all of them, through some cause or other, had lost their sight in after life. The position of the blind at that time was that 34 did not begin to learn to read ; 4 died during the course of the year, of whom only 1 began to read ; 3 commenced to learn to read and afterwards gave it up, and 28 who commenced to learn to read were continuing to do so. The directors adopted the books according to Moone's system of type for the blind, and were induced to do so from the success which had attended the labours of the Society for the Blind in Edinburgh. The books which the society had at that time were:— 17 volumes belonging to the New Testament, 19 volumes belonging to the Old Testament, 3 volumes belonging to the Psalms, 4 volumes belonging to Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, besides a number of small books for beginners. The expenses of the society for the first year were £124 15s. 6d., and the subscriptions amounted to £152 14s. 5d. Votes of thanks were tendered to the directors, who were urged to continue the operations of the society. This society continued to attend to the blind in Paisley, by the instrumentality of a teacher whom they employed, down to 1877, when the Mission to the Out-door Blind for Glasgow, who at that time had under their charge the blind in Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, and Greenock, offered to attend also to the blind in the Upper Ward of Renfrewshire, including Paisley. The Paisley Committee agreed to this proposal, and the blind in the town under this management have been carefully attended to. Sir Peter Coats and Mr. Robert Brown are the directors who represent Paisley at the Board of Directors in Glasgow. Of the blind in Paisley, the greatest number became so at an advanced age. The following statement applies to those in 1880, and little change has taken place since that period :— The number who have lost their sight under 10 years of age, 2 ; between 10 and 20 years, 2 ; between 20 and 50 years, 11 ; 50 years and above, 15, — in all, 30 blind persons.

Miss Elizabeth Kibble, Greenlaw, Paisley, by her trust disposition and settlement, dated 27th August, 1840, provided as follows :—The “second just and equal half of the residue of my said means and estate shall be laid out at interest on good heritable or personal security until the same, with the whole accumulations of interest, shall amount to the sum of £7500 sterling, when my said trustees shall pay over the same to the trustees after-mentioned, to be applied by them in founding and endowing in Paisley an institution for the purpose of reclaiming youthful offenders against the laws, subject to such rules and regulations as shall be considered best for the accomplishment of this object, according as such rules and regulations may be fixed and determined by the trustees of such institution, who are hereby appointed and declared to be as follows, viz. :—The Sheriff of Renfrewshire, and Sheriff-Substitute at Paisley, for the time

being, the Provost of Paisley for the time being, the minister of the first charge of the Abbey Parish and the minister of the High Church Parish of Paisley for the time being, and the said James Kibble, the Rev. Dr. Robert Burns, Paisley, Robert M'Gavin, Glasgow, and Robert Wylie, writer, Paisley ;" with full power to the said trustees to purchase and acquire such lands and houses, and to erect such buildings as may be necessary, to make regulations for the government of the institution, to appoint officers and servants necessary for the same, and generally to do everything in the premises which they may find expedient towards carrying the object contemplated by me into full and efficient operation. This new trust was constituted on 24th October, 1854, when they received from the Testamentary Trustees of Miss Kibble £8518 8s. 10d.

As the trustees found this sum too small to provide suitable buildings and to maintain an efficient establishment to carry out Miss Kibble's benevolent design, they resolved to take advantage of the Statute 17th and 18th Victoria, cap. 86, which gave grants for the reclamation of juvenile criminals.¹ In arranging to erect premises for the institution, they purchased three acres of land on the side of the road leading to Greenock, and erected thereon the buildings at present occupied by the institution. The upper floor contains a large dormitory with a separate bed for each inmate, a sick ward, an apartment for the assistant, a lavatory, and other necessary conveniences. The lower floor is occupied by workshops, dining-hall, schoolroom, kitchen, and governor's house ; and the back building consists of apartments for cooking, washing, drying, &c. The building can accommodate sixty inmates ; and if the necessity for extension should arrive it may easily be effected by adding one or two wings to the front building, the staircases being arranged to suit such an extension, while the kitchen and cooking-house and other offices are quite ample for a larger establishment. The premises, both in their internal and external arrangements, are well adapted for carrying out the training and discipline of a Reformatory Institution.

The Ragged School having, as already stated, given up the keeping of boys who had been convicted of crime, from the fear of their contaminating the other boys, 14 of these boys were transferred

¹ "COMMITMENT OF OFFENDERS TO A REFORMATORY SCHOOL.—Whenever an offender who, in the judgment of the Court, Justices, or Magistrates before whom he is charged, as under the age of sixteen years, is convicted on indictment, or in a summary manner, of an offence punishable with penal servitude or imprisonment, and is sentenced to be imprisoned for a term of ten days or a longer term, the Court, Justices, or a Magistrate may also sentence him to be sent at the expiration of his period of imprisonment to a certified Reformatory School, and to be there detained for a term of not less than two years and not more than five years." "Provided always that a youthful offender under the age of ten years shall not be so directed to be sent to a Reformatory School unless he has been previously charged with some crime or offence punishable with penal servitude or imprisonment ; or is sentenced in England by a Judge of Assize or Court of General or Quarter Sessions ; or in Scotland by a Circuit Court of Justiciary or Sheriff" (Extract from 29 and 30 Victoria, cap. 117, section 14).

to the Kibble Reformatory on 1st August, 1859, the day the institution was opened. By the end of that year the number of boys had increased to 29. At this time the trustees engaged a tailor and also a shoemaker, and had workshops fitted up with the view of teaching the boys one or other of these trades. The total funds under control of the trustees amounted to £10,300 16s. 9d., and the expenditure on land, building, furniture, &c., was £3601 15s. 4d., thus leaving of capital to be invested, £6699 1s. 4d.

At the end of 1865 there were 51 boys on the roll; during the five previous years 29 boys had been discharged, and of these 18 were known to be doing well, 4 were doubtful, 4 had again been convicted of crime, 2 had been drowned at sea, and of the remaining 1, who joined the army, nothing had been heard (*Report by Directors for 1865*). In 1868 the trustees leased fifteen acres of moss plantation for out-door working, as they found they were unable to employ to advantage all the boys at the industrial occupations carried on in the institution. On 31st December, 1870, there were 64 boys on the school roll. Twenty-one boys were finally discharged during this year; 14 were placed in situations provided for them; 4 returned to friends; 1 emigrated; 1 went to sea, and 1 was transferred to another school. By the rules of the trustees, no boy need leave the institution till a suitable situation is provided for him. When he leaves he is supplied with an excellent suit of clothes, and his own accumulated earnings are generally sufficient to procure him another suit. For some years after leaving, the boys are either regularly visited or enquired after, and help and guidance are afforded them so far as that can be judiciously done.

The trustees' report for 1870 states that 32 boys have been engaged at agricultural and gardening operations during the year. Although the one master takes special charge of the garden, both are frequently employed on the field. The trustees consider this branch of their operations an excellent and suitable field of labour for the boys, who become active, hardy, and handy, and are thereby better enabled afterwards to push their own way honestly and bravely. The joiner's shop was discontinued in 1869.

"While the boys are urged to enter heartily into their work and apply themselves diligently to their lessons, they are at the same time encouraged to enjoy themselves with all the zest and ardour of youth. The play-ground has been a busy and exciting scene since it was enlarged two years ago. On it many of the ills of life, moral and physical, are being sweated away. Cricket in summer and football in winter are the favourite games. An evening weekly is devoted to vocal music, and is a source of great enjoyment. The flute band has also afforded much gratification to all connected with the institution. Through the kindness of a number of friends, the boys composing it have been supplied with a handsome uniform, and have accompanied several excursions during the summer. The trustees believe that these and other sources of enjoyment, such as

the weekly readings and the cultivation of flowers, cannot fail to have an invigorating and elevating effect on the inmates of the institution. On Sabbaths the whole of the boys go to church,—forenoon and afternoon,—accompanied by each of the masters, in rotation.”

The number of boys on the school roll at the end of 1876 was 76. The admissions during the year were 25. Of these there were from Paisley, 3; from Greenock, 11; Renfrew, 1; Edinburgh, 7; Perth, 2; and Campbeltown, 1;—4 of these were under 11 years; 13 were between 11 and 14; and 8 were over 14. 13 of them had been sentenced to 5 years’ detention; 5 for 4 years; 5 for 3 years; and 2 for 2 years. During the three years 1873, 4, 5, there were 53 boys finally discharged; while in the institution, 26 were employed at agriculture and gardening; 16 at shoemaking; 11 at tailoring. Of the 53 boys discharged, 47 are known to be doing well; 2 are doubtful; 3 have been re-convicted; and the case of one is unknown. The state of education was as follows:—Of the 29 boys leaving, 10 could read fairly; 19 could read well; 1 could write; 12 could write fairly; 16 could write well; 4 had a little knowledge of arithmetic; 13 had a fair knowledge of arithmetic; and 12 had a good knowledge of it.

From the last report of the trustees for the year 1881, we learn that since the opening of the institution, 462 boys had been admitted to its benefits. Of these 97 remained on the school roll at the end of that year; and of the 365 discharged, a great proportion were known to be doing well. Those on the roll at that time, besides receiving instruction in the ordinary branches of education, were either employed in the tailor’s shop, the shoe shop, or the farm and garden, or in the joiner’s shop. The daily timetable was as follows:—“Half-past five to six, rise, wash, dress, &c.; six to nine, school and worship; nine to ten, breakfast and play; ten to one, work; one to two, dinner and play; two to six, work; six to seven, wash, supper, and play; seven to half-past eight, school and worship; half-past eight to nine, prepare for bed; nine, to bed.” The average yearly expenditure for each for the five years ending 1881, was £21 3s. 10½d. For the three preceding years the average was £20 13s. 1d. Besides the boys, there were maintained in the house the governor and the matron and one child, and the assistant superintendent and cook, making the average number of persons 91, and the cost of provisions for each three shillings weekly, or £7 15s. 10½d. for the year.

The institution is well managed, and carries out successfully the objects for which it was founded by Miss Kibble, for it gives a useful education and trains the boys morally and industrially. The financial position of the establishment, which should be looked upon as a place not for the punishment of the boys sent there but for their reclamation, is also in a prosperous and satisfactory condition.

In this period the important subject of extending and improving

national education had frequently been under the consideration of the Legislature. Six different bills had been introduced into Parliament, and it was the one brought in by Lord-Advocate Young in 1872 which eventually passed both Houses of Parliament, and received the Royal assent on 6th August in that year. According to this Act, a School Board had to be established in every burgh and parish. Householders paying annually £4 and upwards of rent had as many votes as there were members to be elected, and in the event of a contest could distribute their votes among the candidates in any way they pleased. At the election of members for the first Paisley School Board, great excitement prevailed in the town in connection with the selection of candidates. During the canvass by the candidates, many cartoons were published, and several of them were highly amusing and possessed considerable merit. There were altogether nineteen candidates, while only nine members were required to form the Board. The election took place on 23rd April, 1873, when the following were elected :—

	Votes.
Mrs. Arthur of Barshaw,	6293
Rev. Dr. Fraser,	4902
Mr. Robert L. Henderson,	3816
Rev. James Dodds,	3725
Mr. Thomas Coats,	3542
Rev. G. C. Hutton,	2962
Rev. J. M'Lachlan,	2610
Mr. P. Comyn Macgregor,	2478
Rev. James Brown,	2286

The unsuccessful candidates were as follows :—

Rev. Robert Duncan,	1617
Rev. Andrew Henderson,	1580
Mr. John M'Gown,	1396
Mr. John Paterson,	1387
Mr. Robert Crawford,	1357
Mr. George Masson,	885
Mr. John Stewart,	885
Mr. James Clark,	867
Mr. Alexander Pollock,	556
Mr. John M'Innes,	527

Mr. Thomas Coats was elected chairman of the Board. They resolved to erect four schools, — one in the east, south, west, and north districts of the town. When the plans, which were prepared by Mr. William Stewart, architect, were submitted for consideration, Mr. Coats agreed to give £1000 towards each school in order to secure additional space to the scholars above the Government minimum allowance of eight square feet per child. The assessment for the first year was threepence per £ and the second year sixpence per £.¹

¹ For the third and fourth year, fivepence per £ ; for the fifth, sixpence ; for the sixth, sevenpence per £.

The amount of assessment levied caused great dissatisfaction among the inhabitants. A public meeting was held and resolutions were passed, one of which desired the Board to reconsider their proposal regarding the school accommodation necessary for the town. Not having received a satisfactory answer from the Board, another public meeting of the inhabitants was held in the Drill Hall, on 16th September, when it was resolved to memorialise the Board of Education in Edinburgh and the Scotch Education Department in London on the subject. Ultimately, both of these bodies intimated that they did "not feel warranted in refusing their assent to the plans submitted by the Paisley School Board." The East School was the first ready for occupation, and was opened on 20th March, 1876. The South, West, and North Schools were not opened till 9th September following. When the question of religious instruction came to be discussed by the Board, they agreed by a majority to adopt the practice of "use-and-wont."¹

At the election in 1876, there was not so much excitement as at the first one; and although there were twenty-three caricature cartoons, they were much inferior to those issued at the first election. In 1878 the question of chastising the scholars came before the Board, when by the casting vote of the chairman it was agreed that corporal punishments in all Board schools should be abolished. The following is a statement of the cost of sites, erection, furniture, &c., of the undernoted schools:—

	EAST SCHOOL.	WEST SCHOOL.	NORTH SCHOOL.	SOUTH SCHOOL.	GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND ACADEMY.	FERGUSLIE SCHOOL.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cost of Site,	Unredeemed	473 15 0	1805 11 6	1339 6 9	1321 13 11	.....²
Glaziers and Tiling, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	400 13 6
Mason,	3243 7 4	3788 0 0	3274 10 10	3912 14 8	2513 17 0	4180 0 0
Joiner,	1853 15 9	1866 12 2	1846 0 0	1990 19 2	875 10 10	2290 0 0
Plasterer,	173 11 3	208 11 2	213 15 0	186 12 0	107 15 8	276 9 2
Plumber,	289 6 11	271 18 9	283 1 1	248 15 0	294 4 10	324 5 6
Slater,	235 7 8	244 1 1	255 16 2	237 15 0	200 14 2	355 8 0
Painter,	156 8 3	151 9 0	202 19 5	151 4 4	53 19 0	94 0 10
Heating & Ventilating,	149 8 5	124 15 8	137 10 7	145 19 8	.....	145 10 0
Gas Fittings,	156 10 7	122 18 11	121 19 9	140 4 7	24 2 8	136 1 4
Play Sheds and Offices,	682 3 6	567 4 7½	615 18 1	571 17 8	.....	266 0 0
Gates and Railing,	44 13 7	98 3 1½	36 19 0	66 11 0	149 3 9	84 18 4
Architect,	193 4 0	201 0 0	190 12 0	211 1 0	256 0 0	461 0 0
Measurers,	129 9 3	135 6 3	128 7 3	137 11 3	.....	185 0 0
Inspectors,	210 4 4	236 5 0	229 19 0	245 14 0	89 15 6	250 0 0
Watching,	82 17 3	115 3 0	117 6 0	117 11 0	78 16 9	.....
Furniture, &c.,	359 3 7½	318 2 1½	311 15 7	311 12 4	58 16 4	350 0 0
Miscellaneous,	320 18 11½	92 8 7	159 11 11	66 12 8	.....	300 0 0
	8280 10 8	9015 14 5½	9931 13 2	10,121 2 1	6024 10 5	10,099 6 8 ³

¹ For "use-and-wont,"—that is, the teaching of the Bible and Catechism (in terms of the Conscience Clause),—there voted:—Mrs. Arthur, Rev. Dr. Fraser, Rev. Mr. Dodds, Mr. Macgregor, and Mr. Henderson. For excluding the Shorter Catechism there voted:—Mr. Coats and Rev. Mr. Brown. For a purely secular education there voted:—The Rev. Mr. Hutton and Rev. Mr. M'Lachlan.

² The site of the school, with additional ground and cottage to the east, valued at £785, and also the play-ground, containing 1½ acres, valued at £1250, were the gift of Mr. Thomas Coats.

³ Mr. Thomas Coats's money gift was £1000. The building grant from Government was £865 16s. 3d.

The subjects taught in the schools are—1. *Ordinary*: The ordinary subjects, in addition to religious instruction, are reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, history, writing to dictation, and letter-writing. The girls are taught, in addition, sewing, knitting, and cutting. 2. *Special*: The special subjects, and the number of scholars taking each, were, in the first year:—(1) In the four new schools, Latin, 151; mathematics, 25; French, 64; drawing, 1378; domestic economy, 178. (2) In three schools, physical geography, 149. (3) In two schools, English literature, 85. (4) In one school, magnetism, 43. (5) In one school, animal physiology, 87. In the old schools, Latin, 15; algebra, 53; French, 22; English literature, 76; domestic economy, 58 (*School Board Report*).

The school fees were to be paid monthly. For scholars under seven years of age, eightpence per month; for those in first standard, one shilling; for those in second and third standards, 1s. 4d.; for those in fourth, fifth, and sixth standards, 1s. 8d. per month. When any of the higher branches—Latin, Greek, French, Geometry—is taken, fourpence extra is charged. If there are extra classes taken, the quarterly fee would be 6s. The subjects taught without any charges were—drawing, vocal music, sewing, knitting, and domestic economy. When four or five children from the same family attend regularly, the eldest of four, or the two eldest of five, are not charged.

A fifth school—called the Ferguslie School—was erected near the gas-works, and was opened on 4th September, 1882. The cost of this school is already given in the table along with the other schools.

Another benefactor to his native town was Mr. Duncan Wright, by whose munificence bursaries were founded for the education of young men, both at school and at the university. This generous and large-hearted gentleman was born at Williamsburgh, Paisley, on 15th June, 1797. When quite a youth he went to Glasgow to obtain a situation; and after being there for several years, he was sent to Buenos Ayres to represent a Glasgow firm. Some years afterwards, he and another person in the same firm commenced business on their own account. By honourable industry and perseverance, Mr. Wright became a wealthy merchant. On returning to this country he bought the estate of Alticry, in Wigtonshire, and afterwards secured the farms of Nether, Mid, and West Carswell, extending to about 370 acres, in the Parish of Neilston, which realise an annual rental of £450. This estate was invested in trustees as an endowment, under the name of "The Duncan Wright Endowment for Educational Purposes." The trust disposition was dated 10th June, 1864, and provided that the proceeds from these lands should be applied to the education of boys and young men born, or who have resided at least five years before applying, within the Parliamentary boundary of the Burgh of Paisley, or within the

Abbey Parish of Paisley, whose parents being poor and deserving, have died, or from misfortune have been reduced in their circumstances, or from want of means, or from having small earnings, are unable to give a suitable education to their children. The trustees were bound, after paying all expenses, to lay aside £50 annually as a sinking fund, until it should amount to £500, to meet any extraordinary expenditure. One-fourth part of the balances was to be applied to the benefit of boys who should not be less than ten, or more than fourteen years of age, in bursaries not exceeding £10 annually to each boy, with power to expend a portion of the bursaries in the clothing of these, but no bursary to extend to more than five years. The other three-fourths of the free revenue was to be appropriated to the benefit of young men not less than fourteen, and not more than twenty-one years, but no bursary was to extend to more than five years. Such were the provisions of this noble endowment made by the benevolent donor. The trustees, *ex-officio*, were — the Sheriff-Substitute of the Upper Ward of Renfrewshire; the Provost, Bailies, Town-Treasurer, and Town-Clerk of Paisley; the Dean of the Faculty of Procurators; the Ministers of the first and second charge of the Abbey Parish; the Ministers of the Established High Church, Free St. George's Church, and Oakshaw Street United Presbyterian Church; the Convener of the Merchants' Society; the Boxmaster of the Old Weavers' Society. The life-trustees were — Mr. Wright, the donor; Mr. Hugh Wright, his nephew, and four private friends.

The trust came into operation at Martinmas, 1864. Mr. Wright, till his death, on 18th October, 1871, took a lively interest in the management of the trust, and even in that short time witnessed the great good it was calculated to accomplish. There are on an average thirteen boys always on the bursary fund connected with the schools and nine young men who enjoy the benefits derived from the University bursaries.

In this period the Town Council petitioned Parliament on the following important subjects:—In March, 1850, they petitioned the House of Peers in favour of Lord Brougham's Bill to remove obstructions in the Corn Laws; in April, 1850, to repeal the Soap Tax; in May, 1850, to repeal the University Tests; in May, 1850, to amend the Poor Laws in Scotland; in January, 1851, to repeal the Paper Duties; in February, 1851, to repeal the Soap Duties; in March, 1851, against the Window Tax; in May, 1851, they sent a memorial to the Treasury for relief from the expense of maintaining convicted prisoners; in May, 1851, a petition against the University Tests; a memorial to Viscount Palmerston to ask Government to use its influence with the Turkish Government for the liberation of Louis Kossuth and his compatriots; petition for Parliamentary Reform; to the House of Commons, in favour of Viscount Melgund's Education Bill; in April, 1852, in favour of the Electric Telegraph Company's Bill; in January, 1853, to the Home Secretary

for commutation of sentence of death upon Margaret Bell at Paisley, 26th June, 1853; in March, 1853, to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury to order the Ordnance Map for Paisley to be prepared on a scale of ten feet to the mile; in January, 1854, to the Postmaster-General to accelerate the London mail train; in April and July, 1855, against the law of billeting soldiers in Scotland; in February, 1857, for a reduction in the Property and Income Tax; in February, 1857, for the Abolition of Tolls; in February, 1857, to the Postmaster-General to increase the allowance to clerks and letter-runners in the Post Office, Paisley; in January, 1858, and in April, 1858, against the proposed increase of rates on the two lower stages of the river Clyde; in May, 1858, to assimilate the law of Scotland to that of England regarding the right of forty-shilling freeholders to vote at Parliamentary elections; in May, 1858, in favour of the appointment of a Secretary of State for Scotland; in February, 1861, against the proposed amalgamation of the Caledonian, the Edinburgh and Glasgow, and Scottish Central Railways; in June, 1861, to the Postmaster-General for increased Post Office accommodation in Paisley; in February, 1864, against the part of the Clyde Bill which proposed to abolish the rating stages on the Clyde and to substitute a mileage rate; in February, 1865, for the abolition of the duty on fire insurance, and against the Glasgow Bridges Bill; in April, 1868, against the Established Church of Ireland; in March, 1871, in favour of the Bill for legalising marriages with a deceased wife's sister; in March, 1872, in favour of the Education Bill, and also in favour of the Ballot Bill; in January, 1873, against the Amalgamation Bill of the Glasgow and South-Western Railway and the Midland Railway; in April, 1873, by a majority, for the disestablishment of the Churches of England and Scotland, for the removal of the electoral disabilities of women, and against the Stipendiary Magistrates Bill; in May, 1874, it was resolved by a majority not to petition in favour of Bill for legalising marriage with deceased wife's sister; in June, 1874, it was resolved by a majority to petition in favour of abolishing compulsory Church rates; in 1876, in favour of the Banns of Marriage Bill, Game Laws Bill, and against Employers' Liability for Injury Bill, against the trawling system of fishing, and for amendments on Roads and Bridges Bill and Poor Laws Bill. In 1877 the Council petitioned in favour of the Public Parks Bill and Patent Laws Amendment Bill. They also memorialised the Government to arrange that greater attention be given to Scottish legislation, and that there should be introduced a Bill or Bills for amending and consolidating the Municipal Laws of Scotland, with the view of affording governing bodies greater facilities for promoting local measures of improvement, and for simplifying and rendering less expensive the procedure connected with local Bill legislation. In 1878 they petitioned in favour of the Women's Disabilities Bill and the Education Amendment Bill. In 1879 they petitioned in favour of the equitable readjustment of the rating of the Probate of Inventory of Duty Bill, and for amendments on the

Poor Law Bill, and against the License Board (Scotland) Bill. In 1881 they petitioned in favour of the Parliamentary (Corrupt and Illegal Practices) Bill, the Bill to amend the law relating to Parliamentary elections, the Ballot Act Continuance and Amendment Bill, the Boiler Explosion Bill, the Bill to amend the law of entail in Scotland, the Canal Line of Railway Bill, the Assimilation of the Burgh and County Franchise ; the Council declined by eight votes to seven votes to petition in favour of legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister ; they petitioned in favour of the Married Women's Property (Scotland) Bill, the Bill to amend the Municipal Elections Amendment (Scotland) Act of 1868 ; the Bill to render judgments obtained in certain inferior Courts in England, Scotland, and Ireland respectively effectual in any other parts of the United Kingdom ; and they petitioned against a Bill to enable Parochial Boards in Scotland to grant superannuation allowances, and against the Tiends Bill. In 1882 the Council petitioned in favour of Copyright of Works of Fine Art Bill, Patents for Inventions Bill, the General Police and Improvement Bill, Educational Endowment Bill, the granting the same representation in the local governments of the Metropolis as is conferred on the inhabitants of burghs in Scotland by the Municipal Acts, the Passengers' Vessels Licensing (Scotland) Bill, and the Agricultural Holding Notice of Removal (Scotland) Bill. The Council petitioned against the Bill to make provision respecting the pensions, allowances, and gratuities of police constables in Great Britain. In 1883 the Council petitioned in favour of the Education Act Amendment Bill, the Bill to confer the Parliamentary franchise on women ; they agreed by a majority to petition Parliament to take the Licensing Laws into consideration with the view of transferring the power of granting certificates from the Magistrates of burghs to Town Councils, without appeal ; in favour of the Local Government Board (Scotland) Bill, and the provision that the office of the Board should be in Scotland ; and in favour of the High Court of Justice (Service of Writs) Bill.

The Town Council during this period sent a considerable number of memorials and addresses to the Queen on public and social events. They memorialised the Queen on 21st January, 1840, for a commutation of the sentence of death passed upon John Frost, Zephania Williams, and William Jones ; in June, 1840, expressing indignation at the treasonable attempt upon Her Majesty's life, and congratulating Her Majesty upon her happy preservation ; in August, 1842, they passed an address upon the occasion of Her Majesty's visit to Scotland ; in May, 1843, an address of condolence on the death of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Sussex ; in October, 1844, an address congratulating Her Majesty and Her Royal Consort on their arrival at home from their visit to Scotland ; in August, 1847, an address on the occasion of Her Majesty's visit to Scotland by the river Clyde ; in January, 1858, a congratulatory

address on the marriage of the Princess Royal ; in September, 1861, an address of condolence on the death of the Duchess of Kent ; on 23rd December, 1861, an address of condolence on the death of Prince Albert, on the 14th of the same month ; in March, 1863, an address on the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales ; in May, 1868, an address on the attempt to assassinate His Royal Highness, Prince Alfred, in Australia ; in March, 1871, an address on the marriage of Princess Louise ; in January, 1872, an address of congratulation on the convalescence of the Prince of Wales ; in February, 1874, an address on the marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh ; in May, 1878, an address of condolence on the death of Princess Alice ; in March, 1882, an address expressing their sincere congratulations on Her Majesty's providential escape from attempted assassination ; and in May, 1882, a congratulatory address on the occasion of the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Albany. In July, 1881, the Council agreed to express their horror and profound regret at the attempted assassination of General Garfield, President of the United States of America, their earnest hope that his life may be spared and that he may speedily recover, and their sincere sympathy with him and his family and the people of the United States in the painful circumstances in which they are placed. The Town-Clerk was instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the Minister of the United States in London for transmission to the American Government.

Shipbuilding, of almost any kind, on the banks of the river Cart, may be said to have been unknown till March, 1838, when the first steam vessel was launched. The first builders were the enterprising firm of Messrs. Barr & M'Nab, of the Abercorn Foundry and Engine Works.¹ This vessel was built of iron, and the dimensions were:—length of keel, 108 feet ; breadth of beam, 15 feet ; depth of hold, 9 feet. She was conveyed from the Abercorn Works by block and tackle, on two parallel logs of wood, to the field opposite Mr. Carlile's mill, and launched broadside foremost into the river. The vessel was named the "Royal Victoria." From the novelty of the occurrence, many thousands of spectators lined both banks of the river. The builders advertised that the "first public trial trip from the Sneddon Wharf will take place on Tuesday, the 1st of May, at seven o'clock morning, to Greenock, Gourock, Dunoon, Largs, where she will remain one hour, and again proceed homewards, calling at the above-mentioned ports." The traffic, however, was insufficient to justify the continuance of the "Royal Victoria" on this route, and she was withdrawn from the Cart. The shipbuilding yard of the firm was afterwards on the field from which the "Royal Victoria" was launched, and many steam vessels, celebrated for their speed and graceful appearance, were built there, such as the

¹ The first steam engine made in Paisley was by this firm, in 1837. It was about twenty-horse power, and for Mr. Galloway's factory.

"Lady Brisbane," "Lady Kelburne,"¹ "Pioneer," "Petrel," and others. The last-named vessel was the last vessel built by this firm, who had conclusively shown that iron was superior to wood for river passenger vessels.

A few years afterwards, Messrs. Blackwood & Gordon, who succeeded the last-named firm in the Abercorn Engine Works, commenced shipbuilding on the piece of ground on the side of the river Cart to the south of Gockstone Burn, and called it the Cartvale Building Yard. Many iron steam vessels, both paddle and screw, were built at that yard down to 1860, when the firm removed to Port-Glasgow. The great progress, however, of this important branch of industry on the banks of the river Cart will be best understood from the following statement:—

Messrs. John Fullerton & Company commenced shipbuilding in 1867, and from that year down to and including 1883 they built 60 vessels of various sizes, having an aggregate tonnage of 11,401. In 1881 they launched a vessel of 350 tons burden, another 400 tons, and another 500 tons.

Messrs. Hanna, Donald, & Wilson, who commenced shipbuilding in 1871, built a good many vessels at their Abercorn shipbuilding yards. The vessels are launched broadside foremost, the position of the yard not admitting of any other plan. The gross tonnage of the vessels they built from 1878 to 1883 inclusive was 2997, one of the vessels being 1200 tons burden.

Messrs. Hugh M'Intyre & Company, shipbuilders, Merksworth, who commenced business in 1876, launched between 1878 and 1883 vessels having a gross tonnage amounting in all to 44,595. One of the vessels they launched in 1879 was 1200 tons, and other two vessels each 1000 tons burden. In 1881 they launched one vessel of 380 tons burden, three vessels of 700 tons, one of 1000 tons, three of 1100 tons, and one vessel of 1200 tons burden.

Messrs. Campbell & Company, shipbuilders, Abbots Inch, during 1882 and 1883, built vessels having an aggregate tonnage of 2610; and the tonnage of the vessels built by Messrs. J. M'Arthur & Company at the same place during 1882 and 1883 amounted to 4226.

In little more than ten years after the town was first supplied with water from Gleniffer braes, a strong feeling began to be manifested, that the control of such an important necessary of life should be in the hands, not of a private company, but of the inhabitants. The manufacture of gas had been taken over by the town from a private

¹ In 1843 the owner of this vessel made a bet of £500 with the owner of a vessel called the "Engineer" as to which was the swiftest. The course to be run was from the buoy at the Tail of the Bank, round Ailsa Craig, and back to the starting place. The "Engineer" was not brought forward on the day fixed for this trial of speed, and the "Lady Kelburne" had therefore to run the course alone, the owner receiving the £500, which had been lodged in the hands of the Editor of *Bell's Life*. This vessel, under the name of the "Balmoral," is still plying on the Clyde.

company, as already explained, and put under the charge of a public board, with a fixed dividend payable to the shareholders; and many were of opinion that the same system should be applied to the providing of water to the community. The water was good, but the price charged for it was considered to be high as compared with many other towns.¹ Expression was given to the opinions of the inhabitants by the Town Council, on 6th March, 1849. Impressed with the importance, for the sanitary well-being of the town, of the poorer classes of the inhabitants having a plentiful supply of water, they appointed a committee to enquire and report as to the propriety and practicability of the Council acquiring, by Act of Parliament or otherwise, the works of the Water Company, for behoof of the community, with power to meet with the Directors of the Water Company. This committee reported in favour of the Town Council acquiring the water-works, provided proprietors of houses under £10 of rent were assessed for the water-rate instead of the tenants. The Town Council adopted the report, and agreed to offer the Water Company five per cent. upon the capital stock of the company, down to the period the deterioration fund amounted to £10,000, and five and a half per cent. on stock added afterwards. This offer was not however accepted, and the subject was not again revived till 1853. In that year the Directors of the Water Company reported to the annual general meeting of the shareholders, held on 21st June, "that it is now the company's duty and pressing interest to provide for the growing wants of the community, by securing additional contributing grounds and storage, for upon the establishment of such works will depend, to a considerable extent, the increased success of the company." By the advice of Mr. Leslie, C.E., Edinburgh, the Water Company agreed to construct a reservoir at Nethertrees, on the Rowbank burn, and to apply to Parliament for powers to complete that undertaking. On 4th November in that year, the Council appointed a committee to correspond with the Directors of the Water Company, with the view of obtaining their works for the community. No arrangement was, however, arrived at between the two bodies, and the Water Company lodged a bill

¹ Comparative view of the water rates charged for dwelling-houses in nine of the principal towns in Scotland:—

Rental.	Paisley.	Stirling.	Edinburgh, rod. per £ on 4-5ths of Police List.	Gorbals.	Dumfries	Glasgow.	Ayr.	Greenock	Kil- marnock.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£5,...	0 9 4	0 3 9	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 10½	0 7 0	0 10 0	0 5 0
10,...	0 16 0	0 7 6	0 6 8	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 11 8	0 11 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
15,...	1 1 0	0 11 3	0 10 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0
20,...	1 6 0	0 15 0	0 13 4	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 3 4	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
30,...	1 16 0	1 2 6	1 0 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 15 1	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0

in Parliament asking permission to form the new works, and to raise £60,000 of additional capital, but did not seek powers to transfer the works to the Town Council. On 10th January, 1854, the Council therefore agreed to oppose the bill in Parliament. But on the 8th March following, the two parties, after some correspondence and meetings, came to a mutual agreement, to the effect that powers should be taken in the bill to transfer the old works to the Council for behoof of the community, who should also be empowered to make the new works, and that the value of the undertaking should be fixed by arbitration. The bill received the Royal assent on 7th August, 1854. The Council appointed Bailie James Gourlay, Glasgow, as their arbiter; and the Water Company named Mr. Alexander Ramsay, manager of the Edinburgh Water Company, on their behalf. The arbiters could not agree in the award to be given, and appointed John Stirling, Esq. of Kippendavie, to be oversman, who, after considering the claim made by the Water Company, the answers thereto by the Town Council, and hearing a number of witnesses, decided "that the rate of annual dividend to be allowed should be £6 13s. 4d. per cent. on a capital of £60,000, with power to redeem the whole of the annual dividend at 22½ years' purchase."¹ During this year the shareholders were receiving seven and a half per cent.

The powers granted by the Act of 1854 to construct the Rowbank works were, in consequence of the depressed state of trade in the town, not exercised; but as a scarcity of water began to be experienced in the summers of 1864 and 1865, a new Act of Parliament was obtained in 1866 to complete that scheme. This delay, however, of upwards of ten years in the formation of these works, effected a saving of interest on capital to the Water Commissioners of upwards of £20,000. The Rowbank water scheme was completed in 1870, and at the inauguration, on 13th April in that year, a dinner was given by the Commissioners in the George Hotel. The drainage of the contributing grounds to the reservoir extends to 1220 acres, and being situated on a high level, it can supply the more elevated parts of the town which the Stanely Reservoir did not command. This reservoir was made to supply the inhabitants of Johnstone and Elderslie also, having a population of 20,000, with water. When Provost Macfarlane retired from the Town Council in November, 1869, it was suggested by various persons that he should receive a memorial in acknowledgment of his energetic promotion of the various measures for procuring an abundant supply of pure water to the town. The proposal was universally approved of, and although the subscriptions were small, £250 guineas were soon obtained. The

¹ The costs incurred by the Water Company connected with obtaining the Act of Parliament, was £2677 1s. 11d.; and those incurred by the Council, were £701 10s. 7d.;—in all, £3378 12s. 6d. The costs of arbitration by both parties were £1239 12s. 3d. The costs of conveyance of the works, and other property of the company, in favour of the commissioners, including £452 for stamps and other expenses in completing the titles, amounted to £653 18s. (*Records Water Commissioners*).

presentation took place before the subscribers at a cake and wine banquet in the County Hall, — Mr. James Arthur of Barshaw presiding, — and consisted of tea, coffee, and desert services of silver plate. The inscription on the salver was as follows:—"Presented, "with a service of plate, to Hugh Macfarlane, Esq., by his townsmen, "as a testimonial of their respect and esteem, and of their grateful "sense of his public services as Provost of Paisley during three ten- "ures of office, and especially of his successful exertions in obtaining "a transfer of the Water Works to the Corporation and an additional "supply of water from Rowbank. Paisley, March 19, 1870." Notwithstanding the additional storage, the great demand for water by the increasing number of public works, combined with the drought which took place in 1879, compelled the Commissioners to curtail the supply to the inhabitants. In the following summer the supply of water to the inhabitants was still farther reduced, being limited to five hours daily. Although at this time a small additional reservoir was being constructed on the higher parts of the Glen Burn,¹ yet it was deemed to be quite inadequate to meet the increased demand for water. The inhabitants became alarmed at the repeated periods of scarcity of water; and the Commissioners, being influenced in a similar way, agreed on 6th October to instruct Mr. Leslie to report to them the best place from which an abundant supply of water could be obtained. He recommended the Rye water, and the forming of a reservoir at Camphill, about four miles to the west of Dalry and seven miles from Largs, commanding a drainage area of 3450 acres, that is, 1004 acres more than Stanely and Rowbank put together. An Act of Parliament was obtained for the securing of this extensive water supply in 1881, and it is part of the scheme that the water is conducted from the Rye reservoir to the Rowbank reservoir by an iron pipe of two feet diameter. The laying of the first pipe took place on 15th September, and was followed by a dinner given by the Commissioners in the George Hotel; and the cutting of the first sod of the new reservoir was accomplished with great ceremony on 12th April, 1883. The embankments of the reservoir will, as contracted for, not be raised to their full height, but they can be increased at any future periods to meet the demands that may arise for a greater storage and supply of water.

The following table shows the extent of storage of water in the five different reservoirs belonging to the Paisley Water Com-

¹ The ceremony connected with the cutting of the first sod of the Glenburn reservoir was carried out on 16th October, 1879, the same day as the drainage works in the George Street district were inaugurated. The company invited left in carriages for Glenfield, and afterwards walked to the reservoir on the plateau of Gleniffer Braes. The Rev. Mr. Sturrock, at the request of Provost MacKean, offered up a short but impressive prayer. Mr. Peter Quin, the contractor for this work as well as the George Street drainage, formally presented to the Provost a silver spade having a mahogany handle, with which he performed the ceremony of cutting the first sod. The numerous company, at the request of the contractor, afterwards dined in the temporary "houff" which had been erected to accommodate the workmen.

missioners, along with the amount of contributing ground in connection with each of these reservoirs :—

	CONTRIBUTING GROUND. Acres.	STORAGE. Cubic Feet.	STORAGE. Gallons.
Stanely Reservoir,.....	624	36,000,000	225,000,000
Harelaw do.,	166	14,248,000	89,050,000
Glenburn do.,	436	12,651,000	79,058,000
Rowbank do.,	1220	78,074,000	486,558,000
Camphill Reservoir, as pre- sently being carried out,...	2446	140,973,000	879,666,000
	3549	30,000,000	187,000,000
Camphill Reservoir, when fully taken advantage of,...	5995	170,973,000	1,066,666,000
	4789	120,000,000	750,000,000

The following statement shows the yearly consupt of water for all purposes, exclusive of compensation water, since the Water Works were acquired by the Commissioners :—

	Cubic Feet.	Gallons.
1855, ...	64,758,846	404,742,912
1856, ...	60,709,850	379,436,562
1857, ...	58,937,623	368,360,143
1858, ...	58,556,514	365,978,212
1859, ...	62,740,827	392,130,168
1860, ...	64,657,310	404,108,187
1861, ...	66,970,602	418,566,262
1862, ...	68,502,706	428,141,912
1863, ...	70,325,451	439,534,068
1864, ...	79,780,910	498,630,687
1865, ...	70,717,627 ¹	441,985,168
1866, ...	95,276,102	595,475,642
1867, ...	107,486,447	671,790,299
1868, ...	Changed to May to May.	
1869, ...	93,072,880	581,705,502
1870, ...	115,682,422	723,015,143
1871, ...	148,326,761	927,042,260
1872, ...	160,767,116	1,004,794,481
1873, ...	161,225,190	1,007,657,443
1874, ...	178,810,313	1,117,564,457
1875, ...	182,756,840	1,142,230,256
1876, ...	180,431,023	1,127,693,899
1877, ...	198,094,084	1,238,088,025
1878, ...	204,524,300	1,278,276,881

¹ The decrease in 1865 is accounted for by the restrictions put upon the use of water in consequence of its great scarcity during the summer of that year.

		Cubic Feet.		Gallons.
1879,	...	181,327,582	...	1,133,297,391
1880,	...	169,379,281	...	1,058,620,512
1881,	...	172,602,776	...	1,078,767,352
1882,	...	191,850,186	...	1,199,063,667
1883,	...	206,470,299	...	1,290,439,372

We have already taken notice of the churches that were erected during the last century, to meet the growing demands caused by the great increase in the population. This course we mean to continue in reference to the present century; and instead of the narratives being confined to the separate chapters to which they may properly belong, we shall, for our own and the reader's convenience, treat of them all at this period.¹

Mr. Gillies, of the Low Church, fell into delicate health, and the Council subscribed £40, in addition to £80 given by him, to secure an assistant and successor. Mr. Gillies died 6th March, 1810. Mr. John Reid, who was chosen to fill the position, died on 10th November, 1810; and Mr. Robert Burns, who was chosen as his successor, was ordained 19th July, 1811. In September, 1802, the yearly stipend received by the three town's ministers was £175; in 1806, £200; in 1811, £240; in 1814, £280; and in 1816, £300, which was the last increase. On 10th March, 1820, the congregation of the Low Church assembled, for the first time, in St. George's Church, which was erected at an expense, including the Presbytery House, of £7831 5s. 5d., whereof the corporation paid £6183 15s. 3d., while the proprietors of seats in the Low Church, who obtained sittings in the new church, paid the balance.

Mr. Burns received from the University of Edinburgh, in 1828, the degree of Doctor of Divinity. At the secession in 1843, Dr. Burns left St. George's Church;² and Mr. Alexander Rennison,

¹ In Paisley are 22 places of worship:—Established Church, 4; Gaelic Chapel, 1; Relief, 2; Burgher, 1; Anti-Burgher, 1; Old Light Burgher, 1; Reformed Presbytery, 1; Old Methodist, 1; New Methodist, 1; Tabernacle, 1; Roman Catholic, 1; Independent, 1; Glassite, 1; Baptist Trinitarian, 2; Baptist Sabellian, 1; Universalist Unitarian, 1; and Universalist Trinitarian, 1 (*Annual Miscellany; or Rational Recreations for 1812, p. 4*).

² Dr. Burns died at Toronto, Canada, on 19th August, 1869, in the 81st year of his age. His son, the Rev. R. F. Burns, published *The Life and Times of his father*, to which the reader is referred for more information regarding this able and eloquent divine. The following is a list of the works which he published while in Paisley:—

An Essay on the Propagation of Christianity in the East, 1813.

Illustrations of Providence in Late Events: a Sermon, 1814.

A Letter to Dr. Chalmers on the Distinctive Characters of Protestantism and Popery, 1817.

An Essay on the Eldership, 1818.

Historical Dissertations on the Poor, 1819.

Trail's Guide to the Lord's Table, with Life, &c., 1820.

Bonar's Genuine Religion, the Best Friend of the People, with Life, &c., 1821.

Active Goodness beautifully exemplified in the Life and Labours of the Rev. T. Gouge, 1821.

who was chosen to fill the pastorate, was inducted 23rd February, 1844. Mr. Rennison died 12th December, 1867,¹ and was succeeded by Mr. Christopher M'Kune, who was ordained 17th July, 1868. In 1874 an organ, the gift of Mr. James Clark, was placed in the church. Mr. M'Kune was translated to Crawford Parish Church in 1877; and Mr. A. D. Campbell, of Kilcalmonell Parish Church, was chosen his successor, and was inducted on 2nd May in that year. Mr. Campbell was translated to Kirkcudbright in 1882, and was succeeded by Mr. A. Fyfe Burns, the present incumbent, who was inducted 21st March, 1882. The number of communicants at present on the roll is 1200; and the average attendance at the communions has been about 67 per cent. of the membership.

Mr. John Findlay, as already stated, was ordained 14th March, 1781, to the pastorate of the High Church; and the reader is referred to the history of that church, published by the writer in

Cecil's Visit to the House of Mourning, with Introductory Essay, 1823.

Cecil's Address to Servants, with Introductory Essay, 1823.

Henry's Address to Parents on Baptism, with Life and Preface.

Brown of Wamphray on Prayer, with Life of the Author.

Brown on the Life of Faith, with Preface, 1825.

Treatise on Pluralities, 1824.

Speech on the Roman Catholic Claims, 1825.

Three Letters to a Friend on the Moral Bearings of the Bible Society Controversy, 1827.

Sober-Mindedness: a Sermon to the Young, 1828.

A Voice from the Scaffold: an Address on the Execution of Brown and Craig, 1829.

The Gareloch Heresy Tried, 1830.

A Letter in Vindication of the above, 1830.

Wodrow's History of the Church of Scotland, with Life, Notes, and Preliminary Dissertation. 4 vols. 1830.

Jehovah, the Guardian of his own Word: a Sermon, 1830.

Memoir of the Rev. Henry Fisk, with Preface and Notes.

Charge Addressed to the Rev. J. Keith, Scots Church, Swallow Street, 1832.

Bellamy's Letters and Dialogues, with Essay.

Religious Endowments.

Establishments Vindicated.

Hints on Ecclesiastical Reform.

Plea for State Churches, 1836.

Scottish Voluntarism the Atheist's Ally, 1836.

Plea for the Poor, 1841.

Christian Patriotism, 1841.

Episcopal Liturgy, 1841.

Truth and Love *versus* Prelacy and Prayer Book, 1840.

Speech at Emigration Meeting, 1840.

Free Thoughts, addressed to the Electors of Renfrewshire, 1841.

More Free Thoughts, addressed to the Electors of Renfrewshire, 1841.

Explosion of the Telegraph, 1842.

Life of Dr. Stevenson M'Gill, 1842.

Report to the Free Church on Canada and Nova Scotia, 1844.

Farewell Sermon, 1845.

¹ He was the author of "Strictures on the Marriage and Registration Bills for Scotland," in 1848; and "The Sabbath a Day of Rejoicing," in 1849. His son, the Rev. Lewis Rennison, published, in 1868, a number of his father's sermons, along with a brief memoir.

1877, for further particulars. We merely remark here that the High Church at present has a membership of 1279, and in communion attenders, 917.

Mr. Rankine, as formerly mentioned, was chosen to the pastorate of the Middle Church in 1797. He died 7th March, 1831; and Mr. James Begg succeeded, and was inducted 8th November in that year. Mr. Begg was translated to Liberton, near Edinburgh, in June, 1835; and Mr. Robert Stevenson, of the North Church, Paisley, his successor, was inducted 12th February, 1836. In March, 1844, Mr. Stevenson was translated to Dalry. His successor was Mr. James E. Wood, who was inducted 18th February, 1845. Mr. Wood was translated to the parish of Old Machar, Aberdeenshire, in 1848, and died there in October, 1857. Mr. Robert Kirk, of Newark Chapel, Port-Glasgow, succeeded, and was inducted to his pastoral charge on 3rd April, 1849. Mr. Kirk was translated in October, 1858 to the United Parishes of Hutton and Fishwick; and was succeeded by Mr. John Allison, who was ordained 10th March, 1859. Mr. Allison was translated to the parish of Bonhill in September, 1861. Mr. Alexander Bryson was chosen to fill the pastorate, and was ordained 17th April, 1862. He was translated to St. Michael's Church, Dumfries, in 1867; and was succeeded by Mr. Robert Duncan, who was inducted 7th May, 1868. Mr. Duncan was translated to Montrose in 1874; and Mr. David Watson was chosen for the pastoral charge,¹ and was ordained 12th May, 1874. Mr. Watson was translated to Woodside Church, Glasgow, in 1878; and Mr. Alexander F. Fraser was appointed to fill the pastorate, and was ordained 20th March, 1878. Mr. Fraser resigned his pastoral charge on 17th October, 1881; and Mr. George Park, Inverchaolain Parish Church, the present incumbent, was selected to be his successor, and was inducted 12th April, 1882. The number of communicants in this church at the present time is 702, and the actual numbers at the two Communion held during the year 1883 were respectively 500 and 534.

Mr. William Ferrier, as already stated, was appointed colleague to Mr. Alice in the United Presbyterian Church, Oakshaw Street, in 1787. That church was known by the name of the Anti-Burgher Church (*Gilroy's Directory*, 1812). In 1826 the old church was taken down and the present handsome and commodious structure erected on the same site at an expense of upwards of £4000. In 1833 Mr. Ferrier's health failed so much that the congregation made choice of Mr. William France as his colleague, and he was inducted 2nd July in that year. Dr. Ferrier died on 20th December, 1835, when he had entered on the forty-sixth year of his ministry.² In 1878 Mr. France, when he had been forty-three years in the pastoral

¹ It was during Mr. Watson's charge, in 1875, that an organ was introduced into the church, and inaugurated 26th March, 1875.

² An interesting memoir of the Rev. Dr. Ferrier, by his son, the Rev. Andrew Ferrier, along with four sermons, was published in 1841.

charge, brought under the notice of the Session that increasing years had impaired his wonted vigour, and suggested the appointment of a colleague. This was afterwards carried out by the election of Mr. John Porteous, Edinburgh, the present incumbent, who was ordained on 13th April, 1880. Mr. France died on 20th April, 1881.

At the end of last century, as formerly stated, Mr. Samuel Kinloch was minister in the United Presbyterian Church, Abbey Close, which was commonly called the Burgher Church (*Gilroy's Directory*, 1812). Mr. Kinloch resigned his pastoral charge; and Mr. William Smart was appointed his successor, and was ordained on 9th February, 1802. Mr. Kinloch died in 1808. In the beginning of 1827, as already noticed in connection with the efforts made to secure a good view of the Abbey from Causeyside, the old church was taken down, and a new one erected in its place at a cost of £2600. The congregation entered into the new church on 3rd May, 1828. Mr. Smart died very suddenly on 11th July, 1837. He had been attending a meeting of Presbytery at Glasgow, and when passing along London Street he felt unwell, and was taken into a shop and expired almost immediately.¹ Mr. William Nisbet was chosen by the congregation to fill the pastorate, and was inducted 26th April, 1838. Mr. Nisbet died on 14th March, 1854;² and Mr. Andrew Henderson, the present incumbent, was elected to succeed Mr. Nisbet, and was inducted 17th April, 1855. In July, 1866, the centenary of the church was celebrated by the congregation in a series of special meetings.

Mr. Patrick Hutchison, as already stated, was, at the end of the last century, minister in the Relief Church, now called Canal Street United Presbyterian Church. He died on 10th January, 1802;³ and was succeeded by Mr. John M'Dermid, who came from Banff, and was inducted to the pastorate on 19th May, 1802. Mr. M'Dermid died on 22nd March, 1834;⁴ and his successor was Mr. James Banks, who was inducted to the pastoral charge on 21st May, 1834. Mr. Banks demitted his charge in consequence of bad health on 15th May, 1849.⁵ Mr. George C. Hutton, the present minister, was elected as successor, and was ordained 9th September, 1851. In 1873 the church was completely remodelled. Its external

¹ In 1838 his son, the Rev. William S. Smart, Linlithgow, published a memoir of his father and eighteen of the sermons he had preached.

² A volume containing a few sermons by the late Rev. William Nisbet, with a prefatory sketch of his life and character, by the Rev. Dr. Eadie, was published in 1856.

³ In 1779 Mr. Hutchison, when in St. Ninian's, published a dissertation, in two parts, on the Kingdom of Christ; in 1788, three discourses on the Divine character of Christ; and in the year following his death a volume of his sermons on various subjects was published.

⁴ In 1799 Mr. M'Dermid, when in Banff, published a sermon which he preached in Aberdeen; and a considerable time before his death he published a volume of sermons.

⁵ In 1841 Mr. Banks published a sermon entitled "The Stumbling Block Removed," which he delivered in Glasgow.

appearance was transformed from what has been somewhat irreverently called the Barn style to a more ecclesiastical type. The sittings were made commodious and comfortable, like those of the best modern churches. In 1875 the Trustees of Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, U.S., America, conferred the degree of D.D. on Mr. Hutton. The minister receives an annual stipend of £300 and has a manse.¹

Mr. William Simpson, who was settled in the Gaelic Church, Oakshaw Street, near the end of the last century, resigned his charge on 21st June, 1802. Mr. Walter Blair was chosen as his successor, and was ordained 3rd June, 1803. Mr. Blair died on 2nd July, 1832; and Mr. John Campbell, who succeeded, was ordained to the pastorate 16th April, 1833. Although the congregation agreed at the great secession in 1843 to join the Free Church, yet they did not leave the building. They thought that the church was originally erected for the Gaelic population in and around Paisley without any reference to the Church of Scotland; and accordingly remained in it till about the period of Mr. Campbell's translation to the Free Church, Tarbert, at the end of 1845. At that time, on an action being raised in the law courts to have it declared that the church belonged to the members and adherents of the Church of Scotland, those of the congregation who held Free Church principles left, and erected in 1846 a Free Gaelic Church in Shuttle Street. The church remained vacant for several years afterwards, and it was not till 1853 that Mr. Evan Ross was ordained to perform the duties belonging to the pastorate. His successor was Mr. Neil Strachan, who was ordained to the pastorate on 17th December, 1857, and left for Glasgow near the end of the following year. In 1859, Mr. John M'Gilchrist was ordained to the charge; and was succeeded by Mr. Lachlan M'Neil, who was ordained 19th April, 1860. Mr. Ronald Macalister was the successor to Mr. M'Neil, and was ordained 4th August, 1864. Mr. John Smith succeeded, and was ordained 23rd December, 1869. His successor was Mr. P. W. M'Kenzie, who was elected 10th October, 1874. Mr. John M'Kay succeeded Mr. M'Kenzie, and was inducted to the charge 18th October, 1882. In the following year Mr. M'Kay left the church, and the present incumbent, Mr. David Johnstone, was the next minister, and was inducted on 4th July, 1883.

The first Cameronian or Reformed Presbyterian Church in Paisley was the building known by the name of the "Garnel," situated on the south side of Lowndes Lane, leading from New Sneddon Street,

¹ Dr. Hutton is the author of the following publications:—In 1853, "The Rationale of Prayer, or the World's Query Examined: a Discourse," in the same year, "The Nature of Divine Truth and the Fact of Its Self-Evidence:" a Lecture. In 1857, "A Letter to Provost Brown on the Holidays and the Public Park." In 1860, "Law and Gospel: Discourses on Primary Themes, to which is added the True Revival." In 1860, "The Irish Church: the Wrong and the Remedy." In 1869, "Irish Church Bill: Speech Delivered at a Public Meeting in the Old Low Church, Paisley, 19th July, 1869." In 1878, "The Case for Disestablishment in Scotland."

and on the side of the river. The building was erected, it appears, some time after the middle of last century, as a store for holding meal during periods of distress caused by depression of trade, and hence arose the name. This building was disposed of in 1780, but we have not discovered who bought it.¹ Some time afterwards it was converted into a preaching station by the Cameronians. Mr. Thomas Henderson resided at Kilmalcolm, where he had another preaching station.² He had also the charge of preaching stations at Dumbarton and other places.³ Mr. Henderson continued to officiate at the church in Paisley generally every third Sunday till Mr. Andrew Symington was ordained as pastor there on 26th April, 1809.⁴ The congregation afterwards found it necessary to erect the present church and manse in Oakshaw Street, at an expense of

¹ "The meal warehouse in Sneddon of Paisley is to be sold, by public roup, upon Thursday, the 17th curt., at three o'clock afternoon, within the house of Andrew Graham, vintner in Paisley. The articles of roup will be shown by James Orr, writer in Paisley; or Robert Allison, of Greenbank (*The Glasgow Mercury*, 10th February, 1780).

² "The old Cameronians or Reformed Presbyterians, of whom there were several large families and some single members, of course travelled to Kilmalcolm, the only place of worship connected with that worthy old denomination in the district, under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Thomas Henderson (*Ecclesiastical Sketch of Lochwinnoch*, by Mr. Matthew Gemmell).

³ Mr. Henderson published at Paisley in 1791 a work of 506 pages, entitled "Testimony-Bearing Exemplified," relating to the sufferings of the Covenanters. Lord Macaulay, in a note to his "History of England," vol. iii. p. 221, edition 1864, refers to this book, and gives extracts from it.

⁴ Mr. William Symington, merchant at the Cross of Paisley, educated three of his sons for the ministry. The youngest died before receiving a pastoral charge. Another was the Rev. Dr. William Symington, well known as a distinguished preacher and the author of some important works on theology. The eldest of the three was the Rev. Dr. Andrew Symington, the subject of this notice. The works published by Dr. Symington were :—

Sermon Preached 14th March, 1813, in the Reformed Presbyterian Meeting, Calton, Glasgow.

Sermon in High Church connected with Raising Funds to Erect the Martyrs' Monument, 1834.

Youth Warned; or, the Sin and Danger of Intemperance: a Sermon, 1835.

A Sermon Preached to the Children of the Paisley Sabbath and Week-day Evening Schools, 1839.

Private and Social Prayer: a Sermon, 1840.

The Headship of Christ over the Nations: a Lecture, 1841.

Lecture on the Principles of the Second Reformation, 1841.

Speech Against the Desecration of the Sabbath by the Running of Trains on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway. Delivered at a Meeting in the City Hall, Glasgow, 26th February, 1842.

Sin and Evils of Sabbath Mails: a Tract for the Times, 1844.

Negro Slavery Unjustifiable: a Discourse by Dr. Alexander M'Leod, with Preface and Appendix by Dr. Symington, 1846.

Introductory Notice to the Prize Essay, "The Claims of the Sabbath on the Working Classes," 1848.

Lecture on the Claims of the Church and Society on Young Men, 1851.

Memoir of the Rev. Thomas Halliday, Airdrie, with Sermons.

Introductory Essay to Method of Prayer by the Rev. M. Henry.

Introductory Preface to Youthful Devotedness by the Rev. Dr. Houston.

£3300, to accommodate their increasing numbers. This church was opened in July, 1811. Mr. Symington was appointed in 1820 Professor of Divinity to the Theological Institution connected with the Reformed Presbyterian Synod; and the students, whose average number was about forty, met in a hall nearly opposite the church. The Hall term was the months of August and September, and Mr. Symington's pulpit was then supplied with preachers who were specially appointed by the Synod. Mr. Symington, in 1831, had the degree of D.D. conferred upon him by the Western University of Philadelphia, and the same degree by the University of Glasgow, on 7th April, 1840. Professor Symington died rather suddenly. On 10th September, 1853, when leaving a railway carriage at Paisley Station, he fell and injured one of his legs. Fever supervened, and he died on the 22nd of that month. The doctor was sixty-eight years of age, and had been a pastor for forty-four years, and professor for about thirty years. His successor was the present incumbent, Mr. George Clazy, who was ordained 3rd October, 1854. This congregation, along with most others of the Reformed Presbyterians, joined the Free Church in 1876. The church is now known by the name of the Oakshaw Free Church. After the union in 1876, it was thoroughly renovated at an expense of about £1800, the interior having been entirely renewed. The number of communicants is about 270.

The union of the Reformed Presbyterian Church with the Free Church was not a unanimous agreement in Paisley. Those who dissented erected a place of worship in Storie Street, and made choice of Mr. Robert Dunlop, who at present discharges the duties of the pastorate. The Presbyteries of Edinburgh and Glasgow, who adhered to the original principles of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, met on 1st February, 1866, in the Exchange Rooms, Moss Street, Paisley, and ordained Mr. Dunlop to the office of the ministry and pastoral oversight of the congregation in their connection in this town. The erection of the new church was not at this time completed.

The "Garnel," to which we have already referred, besides being the first place of worship for the Old Cameronians in Paisley, was likewise the first church which the Episcopalians occupied. It was in 1817 they commenced to worship there; and their first minister was Mr. W. M. Wade. They continued there till they entered their present chapel in St. James Place. It was mostly through the

Two Discourses on the Sabbath after the Funeral of the Rev. Dr. Mason, Wishaw.

Conversations with Craig and Brown, who were Executed in 1829.

He also wrote a book, by the request of the Synod, on Church Discipline and the doctrinal part of the Church's testimony. But his great work was the "Elements of Divine Truth," being lectures delivered during 1844-5 at the request of the Sabbath School Union, "to exhibit systematically the leading doctrines of the Gospel." Dr. Symington died before this work was published.

exertions of Mr. Wade that this beautiful edifice was erected. The foundation-stone was laid by Mr. Wade in October, 1831; it was opened for public worship on Sunday, 19th May, 1833, and consecrated on 25th September following. On 2nd November, 1836, Mr. Wade was presented with a handsome watch by his evening class for religious instruction. On the death of Dean Routledge, Glasgow, on 21st August, 1843, Mr. Wade was promoted to be Dean of the Diocese of Glasgow. Dean Wade did not, however, enjoy this high dignity long, for he died on 4th December, 1845, aged 61 years.¹ Two years afterwards the members of the congregation erected a monument behind the chapel to his memory. He was succeeded in the pastorate by Mr. Pughe, who entered upon the duties of his charge on Sunday, 31st October, 1847. Mr. Pughe's successor was Mr. James Stewart, in 1851. Mr. William Fowler Mills, the present incumbent, succeeded Mr. Stewart on 3rd March, 1871.

The Secession Church, erected in Thread Street in 1808, was at first generally called the New Relief Church, to distinguish it from the other in Canal Street, which was called the Old Relief Church. Latterly, however, it has generally been called the East Relief Church, and the other the West Relief Church, until the Relief and United Secession Synods joined to form the United Presbyterian body. The first minister was Mr. James Thomson. He was chosen, and a unanimous call was moderated in his favour, in October, 1809. The Rev. J. M'Dermid presided, and preached a suitable sermon on the occasion (*Glasgow newspaper*). Mr. Thomson was a native of Strathaven; and in 1799, at the age of 24, was appointed minister of the Relief Church at Campsie. Besides fulfilling the duties of the pastorate, he also acted as Professor of Divinity for the Relief Synod, being appointed to this position in 1825. The average number of students attending the lecture-hall was about forty. In 1827 Mr. Thomson received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Glasgow, in which he had graduated. After a short illness he died on 25th June, 1841, in the 66th year of his age, and 42nd of his ministry. The congregation made choice of Mr. William M'Dougall,

¹ Mr. Wade was the author of several works, which were as follows:—

Verses from Scotland on the Coronation of His Majesty King George IV.
Select Portions of the New Version of the Psalms, with a Collection of Hymns
and Anthems, for the use of the Episcopal Chapel, Paisley, 1820.

Walks in Oxford, 1818.

A Tour of Modern and a Peep into Ancient Glasgow, 1822.

The Watering and Sea-Bathing Places of Scotland, 1822.

The Duty and Method of Redeeming the Time: a Sermon, 1820.

English Grammar, 1826.

A Short Letter to Messrs. W. Law and Andrew Equity, 1829.

Ten Sermons, 1839.

The Truth Spoken in Love: a Lecture Relative to Episcopacy and Anglican
Liturgy, 1840.

A Few Friendly Parting Words with the Rev. Dr. Burns, on Episcopacy, 1841.

Kilmarnock, as his successor, and he was inducted into his new pastoral charge on 7th April, 1842. He was born in Inveraray on 7th April, 1799; and on his parents removing to Glasgow, received his education at the High School and University of that city. He was licensed to preach in 1822, and was ordained to his first charge at Campbeltown in the following year. In 1828 he was translated to Kilmarnock. He died on 19th February, 1867.¹ An unusual delay took place before a successor was appointed. At last, on 22nd February, 1870, Mr. Andrew G. Fleming, of Alloa, the present minister, was inducted to the pastoral charge.²

The church till the present year (1884) called the St. James Street United Presbyterian Church, was erected in 1820 by a body of Christians under the denomination of "The English Independents, Paisley." Their first place of worship was on the site of the present church; and the name of the first pastor was Mr. M'—ll, who resigned his charge at the end of 1818 (*Pamphlet published by Dissenting Managers, &c., in 1821*). His successor was Mr. Hugh Hart, whom the congregation brought from Wortly, Yorkshire.³ He was ordained 2nd January, 1819. His stipend was fixed at £80 for the first year; and if 300 sittings were let, it was to be increased to £90, and to be further increased to £100 if the church was filled. Mr. Hart's ministrations were so successful that in the course of the second year the congregation resolved to enlarge the church so as to hold 1400 sitters, and they fixed Mr. Hart's stipend at £160, with £20 additional for a dwelling-house. During the building of the church, which cost upwards of £1600, the congregation worshipped on the Sabbath evenings in the Baptist Chapel, Storie Street. Serious disagreeable disputes and misunder-

¹ In 1862 Mr. M'Dougal published, in pamphlet form, a series of letters between him and the Rev. William Fraser, Paisley, "anent interchange of pulpit services with ministers of the Established Church." There was published in the same year of Mr. M'Dougal's death, a sermon preached on the Sabbath after his funeral by the Rev. Dr. Neil M'Michael; with notices of his character by the Rev. George Brooks, Johnstone; Rev. William Becket, Rutherglen; and the Rev. William Ramage, Glasgow.

² Mr. Fleming is the author of the following publications:—*Power of Little's*, 1875; *Chain with Two Links*, 1876; *Snow Drops*, 1877; *Living Fountains*, 1878; *Better than Gold*, 1879; *Peeps at Rome*, 1879; *Look and Live*, 1880; *Children of Light*, 1881; *Wonderful Lamp*, 1882; *Crown and Coronet*, 1883.

³ "The reverend gentleman—Mr. Hugh Hart—in his earlier days served in the Stirlingshire Militia. We remember being in Arbroath in the year 1805 or 1806, when that excellent body passed through the town on their way to Fife to be disbanded. On that occasion it was announced by the bellman that there was a soldier going to preach at six o'clock in the Methodist Chapel. There was a great crowd present on the occasion, and the discourse which the Christian hero delivered, formally divided into heads, was reckoned a very good one. We have also those among us who remember of his officiating in the pulpit of the old Methodist Chapel in Queen Street. On these occasions, it is said, Sergeant Hart—for he rejoiced in the three arm-stripes—was particularly great in prayer; and altogether from his good address, and that he wore a red coat, he made a very imposing appearance in the pulpit" (*The Aberdeen Pulpit*, p. 111).

standings, however, arose between Mr. Hart and the congregation.¹ These ended in 1823 in Mr. Hart's resigning, and going to the Old Low Church along with a number of the congregation. He remained in that church for several years. Mr. Hart in his manners was frequently very peculiar, and often used language tending to vulgarity. On one occasion, while in the session-house before going into the pulpit, an elder brought in a plate from one of the entrance doors to the church well filled with copper coins. On seeing so much money, Mr. Hart exclaimed, with much delight, "Am not I the boy for whistling in the maiks?"²

Mr. Hart went from Paisley to Hilloa Kirk, Aberdeen, where "he was king, priest, and prophet in the chapel. The session were his ministry; and if they did not do as he would, he dismissed them, and chose others more subservient. It was the minister's interest to get his kirk well filled; and accordingly Mr. Hart did all that in him lay,—not only to keep what customers he found, but to increase the number, and he succeeded. His Sabbath evening lectures were crowded—all his seats were let, and things went on swimmingly. One great attraction to go to hear him was that he uttered queer words that he called Hebrew and Greek" (*Aberdeen Pulpit*, p. 124). His chapel was acquired by the Market Company, and with the money received he built a new chapel in John Street, which he called Zion Chapel. Mr. Hart died in 1862.

Those of the congregation who remained agreed on 1st December, 1823, to apply to the United Associate Presbytery of Glasgow for a regular supply of preachers, and the request was granted. This congregation, although without any stated minister, gradually increased, and in 1825, when the number of members on the roll amounted to 84, they, under the sanction of the Presbytery, elected

¹ These differences were narrated *ad nauseam usque* in 1821, in a publication of 94 pages, entitled "A few plain facts, illustrated with some original documents, in vindication of the late managers, elders, and other members who recently dissented from the E—h Independents, St. James S—t."

² "Maik" is a cant term for halfpenny. This term was common in England as well as Scotland. Its origin is supposed to be from Brummagem-maks (Birmingham makes), a term for base and counterfeit copper money in circulation before the great re-coinage. It is still a cant term in the West of Scotland (*Jamieson*).

The Bawbie or Babie was another copper coin equal to the value of a halfpenny. Pinkerton, on the derivation of this word, states that "the *billon coin*, worth six pennies Scottish, called *bas-piece*, from the questionable shape in which it appeared, being of what the French call *bas-billon*, or the worst kind of billon, was (in the reign of James VI.) struck in copper, and termed in the Scottish pronunciation *barabee*" (*Essay on Medals*, II., p. 100).

A curious traditional fancy in regard to the origin of this term is still current in Fife. When one of the infant Kings of Scotland, it is said, of great expectation, was shown to the public, for the preservation of order the price of admission was in proportion to the rank of the visitant. The eyes of the superior classes being feasted, their retainers and the nobility were admitted at the rate of six pennies each. Hence, it is added, this piece of money being the price of seeing the royal *Babie*, it received the name of Babie, lengthened in pronunciation into *Bawbee* (*Jamieson*).

as their first minister Mr. Archibald Baird, of Auchtermuchty, who was inducted on the 8th November in that year. In 1844, he received the degree of D.D. from Columbian College, Washington. Dr. Baird died on 31st October, 1857, in the seventieth year of his age, having been a minister eight years in Auchtermuchty and thirty-two years in Paisley.¹ Mr. James Brown, the present incumbent, was chosen by the congregation to succeed Dr. Baird, and was ordained to the pastorate on 30th August, 1859. The degree of D.D. was conferred on Mr. Brown by the Senatus Academicus of the Glasgow University in April, 1878. His stipend at first was £200; now it is £500, with a manse. When Dr. Brown entered upon his charge there were 366 communicants, and in 1875 there were 666. In consequence of the increase in the congregation, they resolved to erect a larger and more commodious church in Underwood Road. It is a splendid structure, and was opened early in 1884. The organ is the gift of Mrs. Archd. Coats, of Woodside, in memory of her father and mother. On the east side of the handsome gable fronting Underwood Road is a tower and spire 180 feet in height. In the chamber of the tower there is a fine peal of bells manufactured by Messrs. Taylor & Sons, Leicester. The first tower and spire gave way from having a defective foundation, and had to be taken down and rebuilt at an expense of upwards of £3000. It is understood that the total cost of the structure, independent of site and gifts, will be about £29,000.

The United Presbyterian Church, St. James Street, established a mission charge, with Mr. Cook as pastor, at Greenock Road, where a large number of new dwelling-houses had been erected. Mr. Cook was inducted on 5th April, 1881. His exertions were so successful that it was resolved a new church should be built in place of the mission hall. The foundation stone was laid on 19th May, 1882. This church, which is of Gothic design, can accommodate 620 persons, and has a spire and bell.

The United Presbyterian Church, George Street, was erected in 1822 by the Old Burghers, or Original Seceders, who as a congregation had enjoyed regular services from 1809. They met first in an old saw-pit and afterwards in the "Garnel," New Sneddon Street, and from about 1818 to 1823 in the Old Low Church. The new church was opened in 1823, and Mr. Andrew Thomson, the first minister, was ordained on 18th November, 1824. Mr. Thomson resigned his pastoral charge and went to Ireland in July, 1834. Shortly afterwards, the congregation was admitted into the United

Dr. Baird published the following in pamphlet form:—In 1834, "The Centenary of the Secession Church in Scotland Commemorated," a discourse. In 1836, "Lecture under the patronage of the Paisley Young Men's Voluntary Church Society—Subject, 'State Churches founded in rebellion against the sovereignty of Jesus Christ, and incompatible with the civil and religious rights of men'; including a review of Dr. Burns's pamphlet, entitled 'Scottish Voluntaryism the Atheist's Ally.'" In 1851, "The pretensions of the Church of Rome in regard to antiquity, unity, catholicity, and sanctity, examined and refuted."

Secession Church. A call was signed in favour of Mr. John Boyd, Hexham, who accepted, and was inducted to the pastorate on 19th November, 1835. In 1839, Mr. Boyd was re-translated to his former congregation. The congregation worshipping in the Old Low Church under Mr. Robert Cairns in connection with the United Secession Church joined the congregation in George Street Church, becoming one charge on the first Sabbath of December, 1839. Mr. Cairns died on 26th April, 1857. Mr. John Wilson succeeded, and was ordained to the pastoral charge on 19th February, 1858. Mr. Wilson left on 17th August, 1865, and went to New York. Mr. Andrew Elder, the present minister, was inducted to the pastorate on 5th February, 1867. The minister's stipend is £200, and there are 366 communicants in the congregation.

The need for additional churches in connection with the Church of Scotland in some districts of the town was greatly felt, and in 1832 the subject was taken up with spirit by the Rev. Dr. Burns, Rev. James Begg, Rev. John Macnaughtan, and others. It was arranged that a church should be erected in Love Street, one about the head of Causeyside, and another at the west end of the town, thus giving an additional church to each of the three town parishes. The first of these churches, fitted up for 1000 sitters, was erected in Love Street, by voluntary contributions, and was called the North Church. The following inscription was put on a stone in the front of the church :—

“ NEW NORTH CHURCH.

“ This church was erected by Voluntary Contribution, in the year 1834, during the ministry of the Rev. JAMES BEGG, and which will remain in perpetual connection with the Established Church of Scotland.”¹

The church was mainly founded through the exertions of Mr. James Begg, of the Middle Church. Mr. Peter Macmorland was elected to be the first minister on 20th May, 1834, and the church was opened on 29th August following, when the Rev. Dr. Buchanan, of the Tron Church, Glasgow, delivered a discourse. The managers, the clergymen who had been present, a number of the elders, and other gentlemen, dined the same afternoon in the Saracen's Head Inn. Mr. Farquharson in the chair. Before Mr. Macmorland entered into his new charge he was elected minister of the National Scotch Church, London, and he accepted the metropolitan pastorate. Mr. Robert Stevenson was afterwards chosen by the congregation, and was ordained on 17th July, 1835, but he, as already stated, was soon afterwards translated to the pastorate of the Middle Church, Paisley. Mr. James Graham was chosen on 25th February, 1836, to succeed Mr. Stevenson, and was ordained 31st March following. Mr. Graham was translated to the parish church of Fenwick in September, 1843,

¹ The grammatical construction of this inscription being considered by many to be wrong, it was subjected to much good-humoured criticism. Ultimately, the objectionable “which” was erased.

and Mr. Wyper was chosen as his successor, and was ordained 27th October, 1843. He remained but a short time, being translated to the church and parish of Norriston, Dunblane, in September, 1845. Mr. Duncan Blair succeeded, and was ordained 15th October, 1846. Mr. Walter Brock was Mr. Blair's successor, and was ordained to the pastorate in 1851. On his translation to Orkney in 1855, Mr. James Aitken was elected (5th January, 1856) to discharge the duties of the pastorate. On his translation to a charge in Glasgow, he was succeeded in August, 1862, by Mr. J. A. Stewart. His successor was Mr. William Row, who was inducted 21st July, 1864; and on his translation to a church in Glasgow his successor was Mr. John Renwick, who was ordained 18th July, 1867. Mr. D. N. Imrie succeeded, and was ordained to the charge in December, 1870. His successor was Mr. Robert Gilfillan, who was ordained to the pastorate on 20th June, 1872. On his translation to the parish church of Lochwinnoch, he was succeeded by Mr. Frederick C. Niven, who was ordained 10th January, 1874. Mr. Niven died on 7th July, 1883, and Mr. J. Young, the present incumbent, who had acted as Mr. Niven's assistant for some time, was elected his successor, and was ordained 5th December in that year.

The South Church, in Neilston Street, forming another of the three new churches in connection with the Church of Scotland that had been erected to afford church accommodation in the outlying districts of the town, was opened on 29th April, 1836, when the Rev. Mr. Macfarlane, Renfrew, delivered a discourse. On the same afternoon, a number of the members of the church and others friendly to it dined in the Saracen's Head Inn — Sheriff Campbell in the chair. The church accommodated 1004 sitters. The congregation, a short time afterwards, elected Mr. Alexander Salmon, who had been a teacher in Kilsyth, to be the first minister. He was ordained to the pastorate on 19th August, 1836. On Mr. Salmon's translation to Barrhead in 1841,¹ he was succeeded by Mr. Peter Henderson. At the great secession in 1843, Mr. Henderson joined the Free Church, but remained in the South Church, under the belief that it did not belong to the Church of Scotland. But after a tedious litigation the Court of Session decided that this and similar churches belonged to the Church of Scotland. After Mr. Henderson's translation, Mr. Alexander Pollock was ordained to the pastorate on 21st April, 1846. When the Court of Session decided adversely to his views, Mr. Pollock left the church, along with the most of the congregation. The church remained closed till 1854, when the Presbytery, assisted by others, raised sufficient subscriptions to pay off the debt, then amounting to £150, and the building was opened as a place of worship. Mr. M'Intyre was inducted to discharge the duties of the pastorate, and died in February, 1855. He was succeeded by Mr. John M'Lean, who was inducted to the pastorate in 1857, and

¹ In this year Mr. Salmon published a discourse entitled "Hope Purifieth."

remained minister till 1873, when he went to America (May, 1873), and died there in August following. His successor was Mr. G. S. Anderson, who was inducted to the charge on the 18th of December in that year. In February, 1878, the church was endowed, sufficient funds having been raised for that purpose, and became a parish church *quoad sacra*. On the translation of Mr. Anderson to Aberdeen in 1877, Mr. C. C. Macdonald, Rothesay, was elected, and inducted to the pastorate on 18th July, 1877. He did not remain long in the charge. Being elected minister of St. Clement's, Aberdeen, he was succeeded by Mr. W. M. Metcalfe, the present incumbent, who was inducted on 17th December, 1879.¹ In 1875 the communicants numbered 292, and at present (1883) there are upwards of 500.

The Martyrs' Church was erected in 1835 to meet the wants of those residing in the west end of the town, and was seated for about 1250. The situation of the structure is commanding and beautiful. Over the main door of the church is a tablet-stone bearing the following inscription :—"Martyrs' Church, erected in 1835 by the friends of the Church of Scotland. 'Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house, they will be still praising Thee.'" The church was opened for public worship on 20th November, 1835—Mr. N. Paterson, of St. Andrew's Church, Glasgow, officiating; and in the evening sixty gentlemen dined in the Saracen's Head Inn—Mr. John Macnaughtan in the chair. Mr. John Macfarlane, probationer, was the first minister, and was ordained on 21st July, 1836, to the duties of the pastorate. On Mr. Macfarlane leaving for New Zealand, his successor was Mr. Falconer, who was ordained to the pastoral charge on 21st April, 1840. In 1843, Mr. Falconer joined the Free Church party, but holding, like many others similarly situated, that the property did not belong to the Church of Scotland, he remained in the Martyrs' Church. After protracted litigation, as already stated, the Court of Session decided otherwise; and on Mr. Falconer leaving, the most of the congregation went along with him. There were no stated services in the church for a considerable time afterwards. On 1st February, 1848, Mr. G. Morton was appointed by the Presbytery to conduct services in that church, and in other places of worship within the bounds of the Presbytery. In 1849 a committee of the Presbytery was appointed to meet with the small number of worshippers in the church to elect managers. Regular pulpit supply began in 1852; and in the following year Mr. John Fleming was elected to the pastorate, and was ordained on 7th June, 1853. Mr. Fleming resigned in 1864; and Mr. R. Woodrow Thomson was elected to be his successor on 5th October in that year, and was inducted on 26th January, 1865. During the ministry of Mr. Thomson, which lasted for three years, the number of communicants and adherents was more than doubled.

¹ A sermon preached by Mr. Metcalfe on Sunday, 5th February, 1883, "In Memoriam—James Seton Veitch," and entitled "Life after Death," was printed for private circulation.

Mr. Thomson was translated to St. Luke's, Glasgow ; and Mr. J. D. Stewart was inducted as successor on 21st February, 1867. Mr. Stewart was translated to Crossmichael in 1872, and Mr. George W. Strang was ordained as successor on 26th May, 1872. It was during Mr. Strang's incumbency that energetic efforts were made which in 1874 proved successful in having the Martyrs' Church endowed and erected into a *quoad sacra* parish, with a population of upwards of 7500. Mr. Strang was translated to Castlehill Church, Campbeltown ; and Mr. Finlay R. Macdonald was chosen to be pastor, and was inducted on 23rd September, 1874. Mr. Macdonald was translated to the parish of Cupar-Angus in 1881 ; and Mr. William Low, the present incumbent, was elected to the pastorate, and was inducted on 26th March, 1882. The number of communicants is 630 ; and the stipend paid to the minister in 1882 was £264 18s. 10d.

After the great secession from the Established Church in 1843, there were six new churches erected to accommodate the members of the congregations that had seceded. Free St. George's Church was erected to accommodate those who followed the Rev. Dr. Burns. The new church had an entrance from New Street and one from High Street by the Weigh-house Close. The foundation-stone was laid on 18th September, 1843, and the church was opened 3rd May, 1844. It cost upwards of £2000, and there were 1020 sittings in it. In January, 1844, Dr. Burns was sent, along with Dr. Cunningham, as a deputation to the United States of America and to Canada to solicit funds in aid of the Free Church, and, after an absence of five months, returned to Paisley. In January, 1845, Dr. Burns received a call from the congregation of Knox's Church, Toronto, which he accepted, and he preached his farewell sermon on 23rd March following, and sailed for Canada on the 29th of that month. Dr. Burns died at Toronto on 19th August, 1869. Mr. John Thomson, of Yester, Haddingtonshire, was selected by the congregation to succeed Dr. Burns, and was inducted to the charge on 13th June, 1845. The degree of D.D. was conferred on Mr. Thomson by the University of Glasgow in April, 1872. Mr. Gavin Tait, the present pastor, was elected by the congregation, with the concurrence of Dr. Thomson, to be his colleague and successor, and was ordained 5th October, 1881. The Rev. Dr. Thomson died on 6th August, 1883.¹

¹ Mr. Thomson was the author of the following publications :— In 1848, "A Lily among the Thorns : a Sermon." In 1849, "Extract Minutes from the Records of the Free Presbytery of Paisley, and Letters in the complaint at the instance of the Rev. John Thomson, minister of Free St. George's, Paisley, against five of the Elders of that church." In 1849, "On Regeneration : its Necessity, Nature, Author, and Effects." In 1850, "An Abstract of Reasons and Speeches on behalf of the Free Presbytery of Paisley in the case of the Rev. John Thomson and others, appellants, against the Presbytery, in the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr." In 1850, "Speech of the Rev. John Thomson in the Free Synod of Glasgow and Ayr in regard to the conduct of five Elders of Free St. George's Church." In 1851, "The Idolatry of the Church of Rome in the

The new church to accommodate Mr. John Macnaughtan and those who joined him from the High Church was called the Free High Church. The structure, the entrance to which is from Orr Square, was founded on 15th July, 1844, and opened on 20th July, 1845. Mr. Macnaughtan continued to be pastor for only four years, when he accepted a call from Rosemary Street congregation, Belfast, to which he was translated in October, 1849, where he died 27th May, 1884.¹ The congregation in August, 1851, made choice of Mr. J. B. Dickson, a native of Kelso, as successor, and he was ordained to the charge in June, 1852, the church being thus without a stated pastor for the long period of two years and nine months. Mr. Dickson in September, 1859, resigned his charge, and was some time afterwards chosen as pastor to the Presbyterian congregation at Croydon.² The Free High Church congregation then elected Mr. James M'Gregor, who was inducted 30th April, 1861. In 1868, Mr. M'Gregor resigned on being appointed to a Professorship in the Free College, Edinburgh. Before leaving, he was entertained at a public dinner in the George Hotel on 27th October, 1868, Provost Macfarlane presiding.³ The congregation made choice of Mr. James

worship of Saints and Images," "A Guide for the Young," "A Brand plucked from the Burning." In 1854, "The Race-course, the Theatre, and the Ball-Room : a warning for the times against prevailing vices and amusements." In 1856, "Religious Indifference in relation to Doctrine, Practice, and Personal Piety." In 1858, "The Paisley Coffee-Room *versus* the Sabbath." In 1859, "Personality, Divinity, and Love of the Holy Spirit." In 1860, "The Spiritual import of Baptism." In 1870, "United Prayer in the present crisis of the Union Question, being substance of an address delivered in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Paisley." In 1875, "A Pastor's Counsels to his Flock on the prospect of a temporary separation." In 1879, "Christ the Resurrection and the Life : a Sermon preached on the occasion of the death of Provost Murray."

¹ The following is a list of Mr. Macnaughtan's publications while in Paisley :—In 1835, "A statement of the actual income and expenditure of the Established Church in the Burgh of Paisley." In 1836, "Letters to the Rev. John Bremner, Popish Priest of Paisley." In 1837, "A discourse preached in the High Church, Paisley, on 20th August." In 1837, "A sketch of the life of William Perrie, and recollections of conversations with him during his confinement and when under the sentence of death ; in two discourses preached in the High Church on 22nd October." "Man a responsible and social being, bound to promote the best interests of society ; lecture delivered in Broughton Place Free Church, Edinburgh." "Tracts for the Times, under the sanction of the Free Protestant Presbytery of Paisley—Who are the Separatists? Who have broken their ordination vows?" In 1849, "Farewell Sermon preached in the Free High Church, 7th October."

² We give a list of Mr. J. B. Dickson's publications while in Paisley :—In 1852, "Speech delivered on 20th October at a public meeting held on behalf of Francesco and Rosa Madiari" ; also in 1852, "Lecture on the fundamental law of Christian ethics." In 1854, "Theodoxia, or glory to God : in evidence of the truth of Christianity." In 1855, "The Mercy and Judgment of God : a discourse." In 1856, "The Voice of Time, an address for the close of the year" ; also in 1856, "The Life, Labours, and Genius of Alexander Wilson : a lecture." In 1857, "The Temple Lamp," a periodical ; and in 1858, a "Pastoral Circular."

³ Mr. M'Gregor when in Paisley published the following works :—In 1864, "The Headship of Christ, with special references to the Disruption Church : a prospective, introspective, and retrospective review." In 1866, "The Sabbath Question, historical, scriptural, and practical," of 433 printed pages ; and in 1867, "Memorials of the late Rev. Henry M. Douglas."

B. Sturrock, the present incumbent, to succeed Mr. M'Gregor, and he was inducted on 22nd April, 1869.

The foundation-stone of the Free Middle Church, School Wynd, was laid on 15th January, 1844, and it was opened for worship on 6th June following, when the first minister, Mr. Alexander Forrester, was inducted. He was translated to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in October, 1848. The congregation then elected Mr. William Fraser as his successor, and he was ordained 20th December, 1849. Mr. Fraser was so eminently successful in his ministrations, that the church required in 1863 to be greatly enlarged to accommodate the increase in the number of the congregation. The building at the same time was greatly improved in its external appearance. In 1857, Mr. Fraser was the means of re-establishing the Philosophical Institution, which had ceased to exist for several years previously. Mr. Fraser was president of this valuable institution for several years afterwards. In 1872 the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on him by the University of Glasgow. As an educationist the doctor stood high, and at the first School Board election in 1872, he was elected a member of the Board, being the second highest on the poll — Mrs. Arthur of Barshaw being the highest. At the election in 1876 he was again chosen a member of the School Board. In the following year, his health, from an internal disease, began to fail, and he was forced to abandon his ministerial duties. He died on the 21st September, 1879, in the sixty-second year of his age. The funeral, on the 27th of that month, was a public one, and the service was conducted in the Free Middle Church.¹ The congregation made choice of Mr. William M'Cloy for their pastor, and he was inducted on 7th September, 1881. He only remained a short time in his charge. In April in the following year he left the Free Church and joined the Established Church, and was chosen by the congregation of the new Parish Church, Rothesay, to be their pastor. Mr. J. R. Caird, of Campbeltown, the present minister, was chosen to succeed Mr. M'Cloy, and was inducted 14th September, 1882.

At the Free Church secession in 1843, Mr. Peter Henderson was pastor in the South Church, as already mentioned; and although he seceded from the Established Church, he, like many other ministers who held charges in *quoad sacra* churches, believed that the edifice belonged to the congregation, and therefore did not leave. The courts of law having decided otherwise, he and those who were

The Rev. Dr. Fraser was the author of the following published works :— "Lectures on several Sources of Human Happiness," 1852. "The State of our Educational Enterprises," 1858. "The Educational Condition of Scotland a National Disgrace," 1859. "Suggested Basis for a National System of Education," 1860. "The Revised Code : a Plea for a National System of Education," 1862. "Memoir of Mr. David Stow," 1868. "Reform but not Destroy the Irish Church," 1868. "Notes on the Death of Jessie M. Stewart," 1869. "Blending Lights ; or, The Relations of Natural Science, Archæology, and History to the Bible," 1873. "Shall we Banish the Bible from our Schools?" 1876.

similarly situated had to leave these churches along with their congregations. After Mr. Henderson's translation, the congregation made choice of Mr. Alexander Pollock to be their pastor, and he was ordained to the charge on 21st April, 1846. The foundation-stone of the new Free South Church was laid on 22nd August, 1849. The Rev. Mr. Pollock, who presided, addressed those present on the history of the South Church. At first, the congregation, he said, "was small, but it gradually improved, and since the Disruption its members had largely increased. The church from which they had been virtually dislodged was now closed, and the grass growing around; and there did not appear any likelihood of its being re-opened." At a meeting of Presbytery held on 1st February, 1871, Mr. Pollock,¹ in consequence of the infirm state of his health, wished that rev. body to apply to the approaching General Assembly to permit the appointment of a colleague and successor, who would be allowed to enjoy the entire emoluments. This was afterwards carried out, and the congregation made choice of Mr. Alexander Bannatyne, of the West Church, Inverness, who was inducted on 1st November, 1871. Mr. Bannatyne was translated to Manchester in 1878, and Mr. John Paterson, the present incumbent, was appointed his successor, and was inducted on 26th September in that year.

The foundation-stone of the Free Martyrs' Church was laid on 5th November, 1847. Mr. G. P. Young was ordained to the pastorate on 6th October, 1847. Mr. J. M. Dixon was his successor, and was ordained on 4th May, 1848. He died in July, 1865, and was succeeded in the pastorate by Mr. William M'Indoe, the present incumbent, who was inducted 20th January, 1866.

The Free Gaelic Church in Shuttle Street was erected in 1847, and the first minister was Mr. M'Kenzie. His successor was Mr. Alexander M'Intyre, who was ordained on 27th March, 1848, and was succeeded by Mr. Allan M'Intyre in 1851. Mr. M'Intyre was succeeded by Mr. A. G. M'Leod, who was ordained on 8th February, 1855. Mr. Alexander Munro was chosen successor to Mr. A. G. M'Leod in 1857. Mr. Alexander M'Intosh succeeded, and was ordained 27th April, 1859. The present incumbent is Mr. A. M'Neil, who was ordained 17th November, 1881.

The Baptist Church in Storie Street was erected in 1798. For a

¹ Mr. Pollock died on 8th July, 1878. In addition to numerous private bequests and various legacies to public trusts, he also gave his residence of Hawstone Lodge, Ascog, Bute, with the grounds and furniture, as a house of residence for aged or infirm ministers and missionaries in connection with Protestant churches in Scotland, with an endowment of £1000. Mr. Pollock, before qualifying himself to fill the important position of a pastor in a Protestant congregation, carried on for several years a prosperous business as a yarn merchant in Causeyside Street. He published anonymously a pamphlet entitled "Scriptural Reasons for Seceding from the Established Church of Scotland." He also in 1874 had a volume, of 546 pages, of "Lectures and Sermons delivered from 1846 to 1871 in the Free South Church," "printed for gratuitous distribution to the members on the communion roll in April, 1871."

lengthened period the services were conducted by the elders. The first paid pastor was Mr. Richardson, who was succeeded by Mr. David Wallace, he being ordained in April, 1851. Mr. Wallace died on 3rd February, 1860,¹ and his successor was Mr. Oliver Flett, the present incumbent, in 1860. On 28th April, 1881, the honorary degree of D.D. was conferred on Mr. Flett by the University of Glasgow.²

Since the new Baptist Chapel was erected in George Street in 1844, the clerical duties have been discharged by several pastors, viz., Messrs. W. Shanks, J. Taylor, D. Balneave, J. W. Macalpine, A. Smith, J. C. Thompson, R. Steel, and George W. Landels, the present incumbent, whose ordination took place on 1st July, 1883.

The Baptist Church, Lady Lane, was erected in 1867. The congregation, which was mainly an offshoot from the Baptist Church, Storie Street, was formed on 4th April, 1866, and first worshipped in a hall in the Town's Academy. The congregation, which consisted of 82 members, elected to the pastorate the present incumbent, Mr. John Crouch, of the Metropolitan Tabernacle College, London. In consequence of the hall in the Academy becoming insufficient to accommodate the increasing congregation, the new church in Lady Lane was erected at a cost of £2200, including the price of the site. The memorial-stone was laid on 25th April, 1867, and the church was opened on 12th December following. Without a gallery, this place of worship, which is in the Gothic style, is seated for 508 persons, and is altogether a handsome structure.

The Congregationalists' first place of worship was the church in Canal Street, near the West Relief Church, called the Tabernacle, which was built in 1747 for a congregation connected with the Old Scotch Independents. The first pastor was Mr. Young, a student under the Rev. Greville Ewing, Glasgow. He was ordained 21st July, 1801. Having changed his opinion regarding the subject of baptism, he resigned, and was succeeded by Mr. George Robertson, of Inverkip, who was chosen to be pastor on 10th March, 1807. His health having broken down in 1815, he resigned, and his successor was Mr. Robert M'Lauchlan, who was ordained in the following year, and filled the charge till 1846, when he resigned in consequence of failing health. After a year's rest his health was restored, and he resumed the duties of the pastorate. It was during his ministry, in 1834, that the congregation erected the church in Old Sneddon Street. Mr. M'Lauchlan was succeeded by Mr. William Ross, who died after discharging the duties only for a short period. His successor was Mr. John Renfrew, who left to fill the important situation of secretary to the Glasgow City Mission. Mr.

¹ The works published by Mr. Wallace were "Christian Baptism : is it the Immersion of Believers or the Sprinkling of Infants, as testified by Pædobaptists," 1856. Also, in the same year, "A Vindication and Rejoinder, in a letter to A. G., respecting his "What is Christian Baptism?"

² Mr. Flett published in 1871 "The Christian Hymnal, a collection of Hymns for Divine Worship."

A. B. Morris succeeded Mr. Renfrew. Mr. Morris's successor was Mr. John Macrae Simcock, who was ordained pastor 8th September, 1871; and Mr. W. N. Chalice, the present incumbent, succeeded Mr. Simcock on 31st July, 1881.

A congregation of the Evangelical Union Church, according to the tenets laid down by the Rev. James Morison of Kilmarnock, was formed in Paisley in 1843. The services were at first conducted by students from the Theological Academy of the Evangelical Union formed in Kilmarnock in that year. In 1845, Mr. A. M. Wilson, a student of the Evangelical Union, was appointed the first pastor of the church in Paisley. The congregation assembled first in the Abercorn Rooms, then in the Exchange Rooms, and afterwards they leased the Old Low Church. Mr. Wilson accepted a call to Dundee, and Mr. Elder, a student of the E.U. Academy, succeeded him in the pastorate. Mr. Elder fell into bad health, and only remained a few months; he died while on a voyage to a milder climate. Mr. William Taylor, another student, succeeded Mr. Elder in the summer of 1849, and was called to the pastorate, but he gave preference to a call he received from Kendal. Before Mr. Taylor left, the congregation became proprietors of the Old Low Church on paying £300,—the property being burdened besides with an annual feu-duty of £15. As the sittings on the ground floor were damp and the building too large for the congregation, the area was roofed over by a floor which was formed across the space between the galleries and on a level with them, thereby affording accommodation for 700 sitters. The area underneath was then let as a store. In the end of 1849 Mr. William Taylor was succeeded by Mr. J. Y. Aitchison, who gave up his charge in 1851 and joined the Baptist body. Mr. Ebenezer Kennedy was called from Leith, and was inducted to the pastorate on Sunday, 16th November, 1851. Mr. Kennedy resigned in 1855, and retired into private life. Mr. G. T. M. Inglis was called from Musselburgh, and was inducted to the pastorate on Sunday, 6th April, 1856. He remained till 1860, when he accepted a call to a congregation meeting in Waterloo Rooms, Edinburgh. Mr. William Park was Mr. Inglis's successor, and was ordained on 5th October, 1860. In December, 1864, Mr. Park accepted a call to the E.U. Church in Carlisle, and was succeeded by Mr. John Spaven, who was ordained on 2nd May, 1866. Mr. Spaven remained till February, 1870, when he accepted a call to Windermere. His successor was Mr. Alexander Wilson, Kilwinning, the present pastor, who was inducted on 2nd June, 1870. Shortly after Mr. Wilson entered on his duties, the chapel was re-seated and otherwise improved at an expense of £1200, which was raised by special subscriptions. At the same time, the high stone wall that enclosed the church yard fronting New Street was taken down and the present handsome railing erected in its stead, about sixteen feet back from the former line of street, thereby adding considerably to the width and to the amenity of New Street.

The Primitive Methodists first formed a mission in Paisley fifty

years ago, and, after worshipping for a long time in a chapel in the Abbey Buildings, Abbey Close, they removed to the place of worship in Canal Street known by the name of the Tabernacle. This body generally make a change in their ministers every few years, and during the last twenty years these have been the Reverend Messrs. Todd, Langley, Trenwith, Harding, Edwards, Blackshaw, and the present incumbent, Mr. Newman, who has officiated for about eighteen months in Paisley. The chapel in Canal Street having been required in connection with the Canal Line of railway, the congregation have purchased the United Presbyterian Church, St. James Street, which has been vacated by its congregation at the opening of their beautiful new church in Underwood Road.

The Roman Catholic Chapel, East Buchanan Street, called St. Mirin's Chapel, was opened in November, 1809, and among the clergymen who have discharged the duties there during the last half century have been Messrs. J. Bremner, J. Purcell, J. Carolan, D. Kenny, C. M'Kenzie, John Kerr, Alexander Munro, J. K. Donnelly, J. Conway, J. M'Lachlan, J. G. Hughes, M. Fox, D.D., A. Bisset, J. M'Donald, E. Cantwell, N. Parrer, J. Coahlan, and the present clergyman, Canon Hugh Chisholm.

The Roman Catholic Chapel, Queen Street, was erected a few years ago, and the clergymen who have officiated since then have been Messrs. John M'Donald and Arthur Beyaert.

The Unitarian Chapel is in George Street, and the following are some of the ministers who have officiated in it during the last fifty years:—Messrs. C. Dunlop, D. Wilson, R. Findlay, P. Calender, C. Mills, William Bennett, and Mr. Stronge. At the present time and for a few years back the chapel has been without a minister.

About the end of the last or the beginning of the present century, the Wesleyan Methodists formed themselves in Paisley into a body for public worship. They had no regular place of meeting till 1810, when they erected the chapel No. 12 George Street, at a cost of £2400. Prior to this time, their numbers had been considerably increased by those who had come from England to work at the formation of the Canal. In 1821, the number of members had decreased so much that they altered the chapel so as only to use the galleries as a place to worship in, and converted the area into shops and dwelling-houses. The chapel by this alteration could still accommodate about 600 persons. In 1834, when the number of members was 300, a difference of opinion arose among them regarding the Voluntary controversy which raged at that time. This warfare was brought to an end by about one-half of the members leaving the chapel, and forming a new denomination under the name of the "Independent Methodist Association," with Mr. C. J. Kennedy as their minister.¹ Those who remained in the

¹ On this subject Mr. Kennedy published in 1832, in pamphlet form, "Observation on the terms of Sacramental Communion among the Wesleyan

chapel, gradually decreasing in numbers, ultimately became unable to pay the interest on the £1000 borrowed on the property. It was therefore sold by the bondholder in 1850, by public roup, and was bought by Mr. C. J. Kennedy for £720. The congregation, with Mr. Kennedy as their pastor, remained in the chapel till his death in 1854, after which his trustees sold it to the congregation of Swedenborgians, now worshipping there. On their obtaining possession, the building was renovated and improved, both internally and externally, so much that the "New Jerusalem Chapel" is very handsome. The present minister is Mr. Laurence Allbutt.

Various games and sports were indulged in by a number of the inhabitants of Paisley during the early part of this century, and archery was one of them. In 1806, "The Paisley Archers' Society" was established, and they possessed a silver arrow, for which the members competed at fixed periods. We find from the Glasgow newspapers that "the silver arrow was shot for by the Company of Archers at Paisley, on Friday, the 24th August, 1810, and won by Mr. John Kinross." In Ritchie's *Paisley Directory* for 1820 it is stated that the office-bearers of this society were Robert Small, captain; Robert Walkinshaw, jun., late captain; and James Jackson, secretary. On 31st October, 1829, the members of the Company of Archers had their competition for the silver arrow at the Butts, and, after a keen competition, it was won by Mr. William Parker, jun. The grounds, we are informed, were crowded by spectators anxious to witness this ancient pastime; but it is not stated where the Butts were situated. The members dined in the afternoon of that day in the Renfrewshire Tontine. In the following year, the company met at the Butts on 28th May to shoot for the silver arrow and medals, which, after a short competition, were won by Mr. Hamilton, who was declared captain for the next year. We learn from an advertisement in the Paisley newspaper of 4th June, 1831, that the Paisley Company of Archers were to assemble on the grounds for practice on Monday, the 6th of that month, at four o'clock afternoon, and on every lawful day thereafter during the season at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m.; and it was intimated that gentlemen desirous of becoming members were to apply to Mr. Joseph

Methodists;" and in 1834, "The Testimony of the dissenting Wesleyan Methodists in Paisley against the union of Church and State, with an address to the Wesleyan Methodists in Great Britain and Ireland regarding the late decision of the conference in the case of Mr. J. R. Stephens, of Ashton-under-Lyne." Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Charles Leckie, Barrhead, had a public discussion on National Establishments, in the High Church, Paisley, on the evenings of the 15th and 18th March, 1839. Mr. Kennedy published, in 1830, a work on "The Doctrine of Universal Atonement Vindicated, in seven letters to the Rev. John Smyth, D.D." There was also published, under the sanction of the Scottish Association for opposing Prevalent Error, a work written by Mr. Kennedy entitled "Nature and Revelation Harmonious: a defence of Scriptural Truths assailed in Mr. George Combe's work on the Constitution of Man, considered in relation to external objects."

M'Leod, secretary. We fear this resolution to practise regularly and zealously was not carried out, for we have been unable to discover any notice of their meeting to compete during that or any future season for the silver arrow and medals. Such, apparently, was the ending of this club. But in September, 1857, another club was formed under the same name. Mr. Crum-Ewing, M.P., was the patron; Mr. J. J. Lamb, president; Mr. J. S. Crawford, vice-president; Mr. Thomas M'Robert, secretary; and Mr. James M'Farlane, treasurer. They made arrangements for practising regularly, and, with a gallantry that did them credit, they resolved to invite ladies to join as honorary members. In May of the following year, Mr. Crum-Ewing presented the club with a valuable baldrick or belt, and Bailie Lamb, the captain for that year, a silver medal, as prizes to be shot for. Mr. Reid, bowmaker, Kilwinning, presented the club with four finely-made arrows. The formal opening of the ground at Greenhill for the summer practice took place on 12th May, 1860, when the following prizes were competed for:—A green cap and tassel, presented by Mr. James M'Farlane, the captain, to go to the gainer of the most golds of the day; a sweepstake, set of arrows, to go to the winner of the highest score of the day; a second set of arrows for the best gold of the day; and a third set of arrows for the best gold at sixty yards. The weather being fine and the wind light, the sport was exceedingly good.¹ The second competition was on 24th October in the same year. At the conclusion of the shooting, the following were declared to be the winners:—Mr. William Smith, winner of the captaincy and Mr. Ewing's silver horn in possession for a year; Mr. James M'Farlane, winner of the lieutenantancy and Mr. Lamb's silver medal for the year; Mr. Andrew Ferguson, winner of a set of arrows; Miss Gardner, Greenhill Cottage, winner of the prize for the best score of the field at sixty yards. On 7th May, 1862, the opening meeting was held, and about the usual number of members came forward to inaugurate the season's practice. The shootings thereafter took place for the prizes. The shooting practice, along with the usual competition for prizes, continued every year down to 1867, since which time the club has been, we understand, in abeyance.

In the early part of the 17th century we noticed that a contribution of £20 was made by the Council to aid in a theatrical performance, but it is not stated who were the actors. On 17th August, 1705, the Council "by plurality of votes allowed Mr. George Glen, master of the Grammar School, and Mr. James Alexander, Doctor, twenty pounds Scotch (£1 13s. 4d.) towards the defraying of the expense of their acting *Bellum Grammaticale*," and also "for their further encouragement therein promised to erect ane theatre at their own expenses." This promise, however, was never carried into effect. Before the close of that century there were more theatrical per-

¹ The silver arrow belonging to the former club is not mentioned.

formances, but not under the patronage of the Town Council.¹ The Rev. Dr. Wotherspoon, of the Laigh Church, Paisley, deemed it his duty to preach a sermon to his congregation against theatrical performances, which was afterwards published in pamphlet form under the title of "A Serious Enquiry into the Nature and Effects of the Stage." Before its appearance, a printed placard was circulated with the heading, "Defence of the Stage by the Members of the Paisley Company of Comedians," but this publication we have never seen. On 15th July, 1784, a tragedy and comedy were acted at the theatre, Paisley, for the benefit of the poor. About that time Mr. Sutherland was the manager of the theatre in Paisley, but we have not been able to discover where the Paisley theatre at that time was situated.

In so far as we can discover, there were few opportunities given in the early part of this century to the inhabitants to indulge in witnessing theatrical performances. In 1801 there was a theatre in Paisley of some kind, and the manager was Mr. H. L. Moss. On 22nd September in that year he proposed to the Magistrates to give a benefit, the profits of which were to be applied to such charitable purpose as they might prefer. But we do not learn from the Council records if they accepted of this offer. Of theatres there were none in which actors might execute dramatic pieces; and looking to the opinions entertained by the inhabitants at that time, we doubt if much patronage would have been bestowed upon such had they been attempted. Mr. Hector, alluding to theatres, says — "We may mention Highet's Hayloft, near Seedhill Bridge, to which early in the second decade of the century we were taken to see a performance by His Majesty's Servants, and found access to this, the Paisley theatre, by a long wooden outside stair. In this place and in this company there performed, as we have since often heard said, Edmund Kean, then unknown to fame. After this, the hall of the Saracen's Head Inn was fitted up as a theatre. The actors' entrance to it was by a ladder from a stall in the stable of the inn, by which they got to an apartment above the stable, and having a door leading to the hall" (*Vanduarra, or Odds and Ends*, p. 52). We learn from a Glasgow newspaper of 18th June, 1822, that Mr. Martin, manager of the Theatre, Paisley, had engaged Mr. Mackay, of Theatre-Royal, Edinburgh, for positively four nights only, when he would make his first appearance, and thus would be presented the celebrated national opera of "Rob Roy, or Auld Langsyne." *Bailie Nicol Jarvie* and *Dumbiedykes* were to be represented by Mr. Mackay. At this time, Harry Johnstone, who was a favourite actor in Paisley, became the manager of this theatre.

¹ In 1752, a temporary theatre was fitted up near to the Bishop's Palace in Glasgow. Two years afterwards, George Whitefield, preaching from a tent in the High Church-yard, denounced the theatrical booth as the devil's playhouse, and it was soon after burned to the ground (*History of the Scottish Stage*, by Jackson, p. 97). In the Canongate Theatre, Edinburgh, on 14th December, 1756, was produced the tragedy of "Douglas." The author, John Home, minister of Athelstaneford, was cited to appear before the Presbytery of Haddington, and, to avoid high censure, met the summons by resignation. Yet the play of "Douglas" was elevating in tone and in sentiment harmless.

In October, 1824, Mr. Byrne, manager of the Theatre-Royal, Glasgow, fitted up the large ball-room of the Tontine Inn as a theatre in a tasteful and comfortable manner. It was called the Bank Street Theatre, and was generally pretty well attended. In December following he intimated that he had, at an immense expense, engaged the celebrated Mr. Edmund Kean, of the Theatre-Royal, London, for one night, but he actually performed two nights. He appeared the first night in his favourite character of *Richard III.*, and on the second night as *Othello*. The prices of admission were — Boxes, 5s.; pit, 3s. 6d.; gallery, 2s.; and although thus high for Paisley, the houses were each night crowded to excess. In August of the following year, Mr. Seymour, of Glasgow, fitted up a theatre in a half-ruined building in New Smithhills,¹ previous, as he stated in his handbills, to the erection of a new one on the same site. There were thus two theatres in Paisley at that time. In this month, Mackay, of the Theatre-Royal, Edinburgh, appeared in the Bank Street Theatre in his inimitable performances of his favourite personages — *Bailie Nicol Jarvie*, the *Laird of Dumbiedykes*, and *Caleb Balderston* — to crowded houses. In September, 1827, Mr. Edmund Kean acted two nights in the Smithhills Street Theatre, in the characters of *Richard III.* and *Sir Giles Overreach*. In September, 1828, Mr. Kean, junior, then under eighteen years of age, acted for one night in the same theatre in the character of *Norval* in Home's tragedy of "Douglas." In this theatre in August, 1829, Mr. Kean, senior, performed the part of *Shylock* in "The Merchant of Venice," for one night.²

In May, 1830, Mr. Samuel Johnson intimated that he had taken the theatre at the Abbey Bridge,³ formerly occupied by the late Mr. Stephen Kemble. The prices of admission were — Boxes, 2s.; pit, 1s.; gallery, 6d.; "except when any London performer or other 'star' is engaged, when the admittance will be — Boxes, 3s.; pit, 1s.; and gallery, 6d."

On 24th January, 1833, an amateur performance of "High Life below Stairs" and "The Irishman in London," under the management of the Reserve Companies of the 1st Royals, for the benefit of the House of Recovery, took place in the theatre, Bridge Street. The band of the 2nd Battalion from Glasgow was present. Among the audience were Sir John and Miss Maxwell, Sheriff and Misses Campbell, Provost and Misses Orr, Lord Charles Beauclerc, Mr. and Misses Napier of Blackstone, Misses Dunlop of Househill, Mr. Macdowall of Garthland, Mr. Alexander of Southbar, Mr. M'Kerrell of Hillhouse, Mr. Fulton and family, Major Duchar, Major and Mrs. Mullens, Mr. and Miss Fleming of Barrochan. The box tickets were 6s. and the pit 3s. each. The total proceeds amounted to about £40.

¹ The old tenement immediately south of No. 29 in that street.

² The writer on this occasion was one of the half-time audience, and he then for the first time witnessed a theatrical performance.

³ This was a building immediately south of No. 1 North Bridge Street.

Early in 1834 the theatre, Bridge Street, then the only one in Paisley, underwent extensive repairs, and Mr. Johnson, the manager, intimated in his play-bills, when re-opened in May in that year, "that the objections which have hitherto been held in relation to the accommodation have, at great expense, been entirely obviated. Every exertion has been made on his part to erect a theatre at once elegant, commodious, and secure." Mr. Johnson died on 1st April, 1837, and it does not appear that the theatre was afterwards continued.

In 1840 the Exchange Rooms, Moss Street, were used as a theatre, and have so continued, less or more, under different managers, down to the present time.

In March, 1844, Mr. G. F. Adams, Glasgow, sought from the local Justices of the Peace a license for a building in Abercorn Street, which he proposed to convert into a theatre. Some petitions were presented by the inhabitants against the granting of a license, and the Justices, by a majority of eleven to five, refused the application. Mr. Adams appealed to the Quarter Session of Justices held at Renfrew on 7th May following, when twenty-one voted for granting a license under certain regulations, and seven voted against. The regulations, afterwards fixed, were that the theatre should not be open more than 120 nights in a year, leaving him to apportion the time according to his own discretion; that the charge of admission should not be less than sixpence, except at Fairs and the New Year, when it might be reduced to threepence; that there should be no half-time for the lowest charge; that on Saturday nights the theatre should be closed at half-past ten o'clock, and on other nights at eleven o'clock. On 5th August in this year the theatre was opened, and continued to be managed by Mr. Adams for a considerable time. Afterwards, Mr. Edmund Glover, of the Theatre-Royal, Glasgow, frequently brought out his operatic company to perform in this theatre. On 26th February, 1850, Miss Helen Faucit performed in the drama of "King Renè's Daughter." But theatres never succeeded well in Paisley, and the one in Abercorn Street was shut up about 1860. Within the last two years a theatre has been erected at the Abercorn Bridge, called the Royalty Theatre. What was once called the Exchange Rooms, Moss Street, is also used as a theatre at the present time, and is called the Theatre-Royal.

Another favourite amusement among the inhabitants is the fascinating, delightful, and invigorating game of curling on the ice during the winter season. Although this sport, frequently called the "roaring game," is now almost confined to Scotland and is a national game, there are some who believe, from the technical terms used in the play, that it has been imported from Germany.¹ At present,

¹ *Curl*, from the German *Kurzweil*, a game.

Curling, from *Kurzweillen*, to play for amusement.

Rink or *Renk*, a race or course, probably from the ancient Saxon *hrincg* (*hrink*), a strong man.

Tee, *tosee*, from the Icelandic *tia*, to point out; Teutonic *tyjgh-en*, indicare.

however, no pastime resembling curling is practised in that country. It is believed to have been brought into this country by Flemish emigrants who came to Scotland near the end of the 15th century. Curling-stones when first used had no handles, but were hollowed out in such a way as to admit of the hand holding them. In the Museum at Stirling there is an ancient curling-stone, having the date of 1511 upon it, that was found in a bog near Bannockburn, and had the parts cut for the fingers and thumb. A curling stone of oblong shape, with the date cut out on it of 1611, was found in Strathallan. Camden, in his work "Britannia," published in 1607, in describing the Isle of Copinshaw, in Orkney, states that "there are found on it plenty of excellent stones for the game called curling." Pennicuick, the poet, whose works were published in 1715, says:—

" To curl on the ice doth greatly please,
Being a manly, Scottish exercise ;
It clears the brain, stirs up the native heat,
And gives a gallant appetite for meat."

Curling in Paisley can be traced as far back at anyrate as 1757. The Rev. John Wotherspoon, who was translated to the Laigh Church, Paisley, in 1757, was a keen curler, and enjoyed the sport on the "Heigh Linn," which was the place resorted to at that time and long afterwards.¹ Although curling was early practised at Lochwinnoch, no doubt from the command of favourable opportunities on the loch, yet Mr. M'Dowal of Garthland considered the curlers of his own parish to be inferior to the Paisley men. In 1784, Garthland took seven curlers to Hamilton to compete with an equal number brought forward by the Duke of Hamilton, whose players defeated the Lochwinnoch men by 21 shots to 12. At the return game at Lochwinnoch, Garthland brought a party of the Heigh Linn curlers to combat the Duke and the Clydesdale Invincibles. Among the Paisley men were the two Ralstons,

Witter, to inform or make known ; Sues Gothic, *Wittra*, indicare.

Jack or *Hatch*, from the Icelandic *hiacka*, a chop, a crack.

Wick, *Wicking*, from the Su. G. *Wik*, *angulus* a corner, because a corner of the stone only is hit.

Bonspel, *Bonspeil*, *Bonspeel* ; *bonne* (Belgian), a district or village, and *spel*, play, because the inhabitants of different districts contend with each other at one spot.

Kuting, *Kuyten*, probably from the Teutonic *Kluyten*, certare discis ; or from the Dutch *coete*, a quoit (*Memoriabilia Curliana*, p. 9).

Curling from one end of Scotland to the other till lately was commonly called *kuting*, to curl—meaning nothing more than to slide on the ice.

¹ Dr. Wotherspoon, minister of Beith, in 1745 was a keen and earnest curler. He often came to Lochwinnoch while the frost lasted. He frequented Strand's Inn with his curling compeers. One Saturday, after a tough match, he, with his party, dined there, and sat till eleven o'clock at night. Strand's wife, a douce and serious Christian, patted him and whispered a hint about his public duty, the next day being the Lord's Day. He replied loudly—"A minister who could not shake a sermon out of his coat sleeve is a silly cuif" (*Essay on Curling* by J. Cairnie, p. 89).

brothers (one of whom kept a tavern at the foot of the Water Wynd); John Paterson, cooper, who was above six feet high, and was called the big, and sometimes the wee cooper; James Cumming, above six feet high; Bailie John Burns; and John Dalglish, draper, High Street, the doucher. Before the last shot on the day of the contest, both parties were equal, and that shot lying open, Dalglish, by a hint from Garthland, allowed the Duke's party to win by one shot in order to please his Lordship (*Cairnie*, p. 92).

At the end of the last and commencement of the present century, several curling clubs were established in Paisley. In 1795, the Sandholes club, having from 100 to 150 members, was formed. In 1815, the Sneddon Club had 140 members, and each on entering and receiving the word paid sixpence into the funds. There was another club called the Storie Street Club. In 1829, when the desire for curling had much fallen off, a club was formed, called the Paisley United Curling Club, with the view of combining them all. Their motto was—"Meet friends and part friends." In 1830, they agreed to purchase from the funds of the society a silver medal, to be played for annually. The opportunity occurred on 23rd January, 1833, when the members of the society turned out 77 players, composing 11 rinks, and played for the medal in a similar manner to the sweepstakes. After this society was formed, the curling stones were formed on much better and truer principles, and were more equal in weight and size. At that time the size used was from 5 to 5½ inches in depth and from 10 to 10½ inches diameter, and weighed, on an average, about 36 lbs. avoirdupois. Their breadth was about 2½ to 3 inches, and only a few of them had two bottoms. The old stones, in the breadth of the bottom, were from 5 to 7 inches.¹

About the middle of this century the game of curling increased its votaries considerably and became very popular, but the curlers laboured under great disadvantage in not having near the town a commodious sheet of ice to play on. This difficulty, however, was overcome. The representatives of the different clubs made choice of a low-lying field on Corsebar farm, in the neighbourhood of Paisley, in which by the formation of an embankment a few feet high on one side a sheet of water extending to about eight acres might be obtained. During winter the water would be accumulated in the pond, and being run off in summer, the land would be used for raising meadow hay. The Earl of Glasgow, to whom the ground belonged, was applied to for permission to carry out this arrangement; and with his usual generosity and desire to encourage an excellent amusement, his Lordship readily agreed to the request. The opening of the new curling-pond was inaugurated on first January, 1854, by a number of agreeable competitions, and by a curlers' dinner—with the indispensable beef and greens, washed down with the wine

¹ *Cairnie*, p. 81, being observations by Mr. J. M'Hutchison, preses of the Paisley United Curling Society.

of the country afterwards—in the Saracen's Head Inn. The greatest depth of water in the curling-pond is little more than three feet, and it is therefore safe from serious accidents. It affords accommodation for at least thirty rinks, and there is a cottage beside it which serves to store the stones and to give shelter to the curlers when required. During the last thirty years the pond has been the scene of many agreeable, exhilarating, and well-contested games among the curlers of Paisley.

At present there are five curling clubs in Paisley. They are as follows :—

When Instituted.	Name.			No. of Members.
1841,	Paisley Iceland,	...	...	35
1844,	Paisley Union,	...	...	39
1845,	St. Mirin, ... ..	...	...	58
1852,	Boreas, ... ..	...	...	42
1856,	Renfrewshire,	...	...	41

Each of these clubs has a president, vice-president, representative members, treasurer, and secretary.

The pleasant and healthy pastime of playing at bowls in the summer months upon the green grass has now become a favourite amusement with many of the inhabitants. There are at present six bowling clubs which have bowling greens situated in different parts of the town. The oldest of these is the Priorscroft, which was formed in 1839. The entry to it is from Storie Street. There are 130 members in this club, and the annual payment is 25s. The bowling green at Charleston was opened in 1867, and has 100 members. The Abercorn Bowling Green is on a part of the Abbey glebe lands, and was formed in 1868. There are 110 members connected with this club. The Wellmeadow Green was formed in 1869. The entrance to it is from Wellmeadow. There are about 90 members in this club. The entrance to the Victoria Bowling Green is from Lady Lane, and the club was instituted in 1859. The forming of this green cost £250, and it has just been renewed and otherwise improved at an expense of upwards of £400. The new turf used was brought from the banks of the Holy Loch. The number of members in this club is 104. The Caledonia Bowling Club was formed on 29th January, 1873, and the green is on the north side of Greenock Road. The membership amounts to about 90. The members of each of these five clubs have annually a friendly competition for the local bowling trophy they possess. The club winning the trophy retains it till the following year, when it is again competed for. The trophy consists of a silver vase, subscribed for by the clubs, and was instituted in 1877.

The outlay in connection with the formation of a bowling green of ordinary size is very considerable, but public subscriptions were given to assist in the construction of some of them. They are all kept in beautiful condition. Members pay a sum annually for the

privilege of playing. There are besides a few private bowling greens.

Football is a very ancient game. As far back as 1424, the people appear to have been so fond of that pastime that the first Parliament of James I. passed an act prohibiting football and golf.¹ Acts of this kind were repeatedly renewed by his successors. James VI., although favourable to many kinds of sport, was opposed to football. In the rules drawn up by His Majesty, addressed to his eldest son, Henry, Prince of Wales, respecting what amusements he should favour, states—"From this court I debarre all rough and violent exercises, as the foot-ball, meter for laming than making able the users thereof" (*History of Horse Racing*, p. 47). We have not fallen in with any notice of football-playing in Paisley at an early period. Indeed this game, which is now practised to such an extent by the working classes, was only commenced about seven years ago. At present, there are four football clubs in Paisley. The Abercorn, which was instituted in 1877, have their grounds at Blackstone (the Gasworks). Members' first subscription, 10s.; yearly payments, 2s. 6d. Honorary members' annual payments, 5s. There are about 250 members in this club. The Saint Mirin, also instituted in 1877, have their grounds at Westmarch. The first subscription, 7s. 6d.; annual members' subscription, 5s.; annual honorary members' subscription, 2s. 6d. The Craigielea, which was instituted in 1879, have their grounds at Blackhall. The Paisley Olympic was formed in 1880, and their grounds are at Thistle Park, Greenhill. The football clubs in Paisley and those in other towns and districts frequently challenge one another; and these contests, to which an entrance charge is made, are attended by thousands of spectators.

There are three bicycling clubs in Paisley. The Paisley Amateur has forty members, and was instituted 3rd May, 1878. The entrance fee is 2s. 6d.; annual subscription, active members, 5s.; and others, 2s. 6d. The Victoria was established 10th May, 1879, and has twenty members; entry-money, 2s. 6d., and annual subscription, 2s. 6d. The Caledonia was instituted 7th June, 1881, and has thirty members; entry-money, 2s. 6d., and annual subscription, 2s. 6d. Club runs are generally held on the Saturdays between the months of March and October to places within twenty miles from Paisley. Touring excursions take place in August.

A lawn tennis club was established in 1881, and the grounds are at Greenlaw. The playing is well attended both by ladies and gentlemen. The club consists of from sixty to seventy ladies and

¹ Football, though forbidden, appears among the sports in which King James indulged, and "cach," a game similar to tennis, and played in a court called a "cachpule" (*Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, ccliv). The important issues dependent on the tennis court in the grim tragedy of James the First's death will be remembered by all readers.

gentlemen, and the annual subscription is 15s. The entry money for the gentlemen is 15s.

It was about the middle of this century that the game of cricket became known to any extent in Paisley. Several clubs were started about that time, such as the Paisley Thistle, the Kelburne, the Blythswood, and the Caledonia, which continued to flourish till within the last few years. Many members joined these clubs, and every Saturday during the summer season there were many well-contested games. The Kelburne, which has its grounds at Blackhall, is the only club, we understand, now existing, and is by no means in a prosperous state. The extraordinary popularity of football has greatly injured the interest and the success that formerly attended the game of cricket.

At one time there were several rowing clubs in Paisley, but at present there are only two. The members of the Linside Amateur Rowing Club, who are gentlemen amateurs belonging to the town, practise on that pleasant part of the river Cart between Seedhill and Hawkhead. The other rowing club, named at present the Tradesmen's, was formerly termed the Calendermen's.

The day fixed by the Council for the perambulation of the burgh marches on Lorimer's day has always been the second Tuesday of June. During the first twenty-one years of this century, this duty was performed every year, with only two exceptions, 1819 and 1820, and the perambulators always dined afterwards in the Saracen's Head Inn. The number who walked the marches was generally from twenty to twenty-four, and the dinner bill was paid by the Corporation. In 1800, the dinner cost £11 14s.; in 1805, £10 6s.; in 1810, £12 2s. 6d.; in 1815, £12 3s. 6d.: and in 1818, £15 15s. After 1822, no part of the dinner was paid by the Corporation. In July, 1833, the last year of the Council under the old system of election, eighty dined at their own expense in the Saracen's Head Inn, after having walked over and examined the burgh marches. In the following year, the burgesses and other inhabitants were invited, by public advertisement, to accompany the Magistrates and Council in their perambulation of the burgh marches on Lorimer's day. The advertisement also intimated that a public dinner would take place on the same day in the Saracen's Head Inn, at five o'clock afternoon—the Provost in the chair—tickets, 3s. 6d. each. On that occasion, about sixty dined. At the perambulation of the marches in 1841, the Council agreed that two stones should be placed to point out that part of the boundary which runs in a line from the east wall of the property at Kilinside to the river Cart. Hitherto there had only been an oak tree at the river side to mark the burgh march there.¹

¹ The Rev. Dr. Rogers states, in his *Social Life in Scotland*, vol. ii, p. 334, that "in certain burghs march stones were placed, and young boys were tied to them and birched, so that in after life they might better remember the landmarks."

During the last forty years, the burgh boundary has not been regularly examined, a tacit understanding, we believe, having been come to that such should be done only once during the reign of each of the Provosts. The burgh marches were, however, walked over in 1851, 1852, 1856, 1859, 1862, 1865, 1873, and 1881. On several of these occasions the perambulators were entertained by the Provosts of the time.

The route always taken by the Magistrates and Town Council in surveying the burgh marches was as follows:—After leaving the Council Chambers, they went along Gilmour Street, High Street, Abbey Close, Abbey Street, through the property of Kilnside to Seedhills, and thence in a direct line to the bank of the river Cart, where a stone has been placed on which was cut “Burgh Boundary,” thence they returned to Seedhills Road and proceeded onwards to Seedhills Mill, passed through the mill and crossed the river by the Craigs to Bladda, thence along Gordon’s Lone, Causeyside Street, Espedair Street, South Campbell Street to the turnpike road, thence to Calside Street, along this street, Crow Road, thence to the Canal and along the banks thereof to Neil Street, thence along this street, Cowieston, Maxwellton, East Lane, Ferguslie Walk, West Campbell Street, Carbrook Street, High Street, John Street, Sandholes, Lonewells Street to the old distillery, thence along the burgh boundary, across the railway to the Gasworks, Blackstone Road, thence through Ferguslie property to the burgh boundary north of the Gasworks, thence along the burgh boundary to Mossvale, Westmarch Road, west and north side of Race-course to the turnpike road, thence through the lands of Merksworth alongside of Merksworth goat to Inchinnan Road in front of Marchfield House, thence along Inchinnan Road and New Sneddon Street to the Council Chambers.

Of the trades’ societies that were established in the early part of the last century, and have been already noticed, only four now remain, viz.:—The Old Weavers’, Maltmen’s, Hammermen’s, and Merchants’. The Tailors’, Shoemakers’, Wrights’, Masons’, Fleshers’, and Bakers’ Societies, which latterly were all charitable societies, have been broken up, and their funds divided among those members of the respective societies that were then alive. Some of the transactions of the four existing societies in this century, and their present important position as invaluable charitable institutions, are in many ways worthy of being recorded.

The Old Weavers’ Society having, as already stated, been instituted in 1702, is the oldest of the existing trades’ societies. In 1814, the managers had some difficulty in getting those to act who were chosen to fill that position, and they resolved that any one elected a manager and refusing to accept of office should be fined £1 1s. On 15th November, 1817, the managers agreed to join the Magistrates and Council and others in the procession to the High Church to attend divine service on the occasion of “the day of interment of the

universally-lamented Princess Charlotte of Wales." In August, 1822, they resolved to present an address to King George IV. on His Majesty's visit to Scotland. On 26th May, 1826, Thomas Boyd petitioned the managers for assistance, and they agreed to give him "four pecks of meal, two pecks of potatoes, and four pounds of herring." On 3rd October, 1834, "it was resolved, by a considerable majority, that the Provost and Magistrates should not be invited to dine with the managers at the ensuing election." No reason was given for this resolution, but very likely it was brought about by the local politics of the day, which excited very keen feelings at that time. On 9th August, 1844, a Deacons' Court was held, when Alexander Auld, Robert Kirkland, David Robin, Thomas Henderson, Joseph Murray, John M'Lean, and Robert Stewart, were admitted into the body of Deacons. "The heads of incorporations were at first called Deacons, for the following reasons:—When the artizans were incorporated, they were encouraged by the clergy to erect altars in chapels and churches, and to make choice of a saint as their patron. In order to officiate at processions and other religious ceremonies, one of the number was annually chosen who got the clerical name of Deacon. This officer acquired by degrees powers different from those of the original appointment. He became the first man of the trade and preses of their meetings. He had the inspection of the work of his brethren and the defence of their privileges, and was at last admitted in many places to be a member of the Town Council" (*Cleland's Rise and Progress of the City of Glasgow*, p. 64). In October, 1861, some alterations were made upon the mode of electing the managers. It was resolved that in future the Board of Management should consist of two managers elected from among the old managers, two elected from among members who had been managers, eight of the twelve retiring managers of the preceding year, and the collector of the preceding year—making in all thirteen managers. On 10th October, 1862, another Chapter Court of Deacons was held, when Robert Lymburn, Archibald Hutchison, John K. Donald, Robert Brown, William Phillips, James Aikman, John Reid, James J. Lamb, P. C. Macgregor, and Alexander Pollock, jun., old Boxmasters, were invested with the order of Deaconhood. Immediately thereafter, Deacons Kirkland, Stewart, and Pollock were raised to the rank of Arch-Deacons. In September, 1868, the managers agreed that the annual allowance to the recipients should be raised from £3 3s. to £4 4s. At this meeting they also resolved to provide a gold medal and chain to be worn by the Boxmaster when in office. These cost £74. In October, 1870, a Chapter of Deacons was held, and David Campbell, Alexander Fullarton, William Polson, James Dobie, R. F. Dalziel, Hugh Macfarlane, and John Stewart, who had filled the office of Boxmaster since the last election of Deacons, were duly invested with the order of Deaconhood. Afterwards, Deacons Lamb, Macgregor, and Macfarlane were raised to the office of Arch-Deacons. In June, 1873, the number of almentaries on the roll was

nine ; two of these were members, and seven of them members' widows. At this time the dinners of the new entrants at the annual election were paid by the society, but all the others present paid their full proportion of the expense of the dinner. In October, 1876, a Chapter of Deacons was held, when Robert Armour, R. A. Ronald, Francis Halden, John Fisher, and David Murray, were admitted into the order of Deaconhood. At the same time, Deacons R. F. Dalziel, James Dobie, and David Murray, were raised to the order of Arch-Deacons. On 19th October, 1883, another Deacons' Court was held, and John Donald, John Logan, Thomas Walker, John Young, and John M'Gown, were created Deacons ; and at the same time, Deacons Robert Brown, William Polson, Francis Halden, and John Stewart, were raised to the order of Arch-Deacons. The entry-money payable by members was, in October, 1808, fixed at £1 11s. 6d., and in October, 1821, at £2 2s., at which last sum it still remains. Every member when he enters the society signs a roll ; and as this practice has been carried on from the commencement of the society, it now extends to a considerable length. It is interesting to look at the signatures at the beginning of the roll, and contrast them with those that follow. In March, 1822, John Snodgrass, the clerk to the society, died, and as a mark of respect to his memory the managers agreed to cover the seat in the Low Church with black cloth for four Sundays, and to attend as numerously as possible. John Hart, writer, was elected successor. He died in May, 1864, and David Campbell, writer, was elected as his successor. He died in October, 1873, and his son, John Campbell, was appointed clerk, and died in 1877, when Robert Russell, writer, was appointed clerk, and remains so while we write (1884).

In 1812 Walter Carswell, manufacturer, Paisley, bequeathed £100 to the society ; in 1832 John M'Kerrell of Hillhouse, then a candidate for the representation of Paisley in Parliament, gave a donation of £20 ; and Archibald Hastie, M.P., in 1840, also gave a donation of £20.

The funds of the society were at different dates as follows :—1863, £1664 13s. 4d. ; 1870, £1901 16s. 3d. ; and in 1883, £2612 12s. 8d.

In 1873 the annual allowance to recipients was raised from £4 4s. to £5 5s. In 1870 there were fifteen recipients, the number of members being ten, who received each £5, and of widows five, who received £5 each. In 1883 two members received £5 each, and eighteen widows £5 each—in all, £90.

The general events connected with the Maltmen Society, apart from the discharge of the duties of the managers of a charitable institution, are not in any way very remarkable. In 1802, at the fiftieth anniversary of the accession of King George III. to the throne, the members joined the Magistrates and Town Council and other corporations in a procession to the High Church to attend divine worship. They also attended divine worship in that church on 19th November, 1817, being the day of the funeral of Princess

Charlotte of Wales, and they also walked in procession. In 1787 the entry-money was raised from 15s. to 21s.; in 1830, to £1 11s. 6d.; in 1839, to £2 2s.; and in 1868, to £3 3s., which is the present charge. It is the custom of the society, and has been for a considerable time, that the boxmaster and collector remain in office for three years. At the period of the election of the former an effort is made to obtain new members, who are entertained at dinner at the expense of the society, but everyone else pays. A good many of the members belong to Glasgow. The number of new members who enter at these periods varies very much. In 1846 there were thirty-three new entrants, and of these twelve were from Glasgow. In 1858 there were sixty new members — the largest number that have entered at any one time — and the half of these were from Glasgow. The number of new members in 1874 was very considerable, there being forty-three, and twenty-one of these were from Glasgow. In 1881 the number of new entrants was thirty-five, and they all belonged to Paisley. The number of new members in these years was exceptionally high. It is only during the last half of the century that the funds of the society rapidly increased. In 1831 the total funds were only £367 19s. 11d.; in 1839, £1076 19s. 8d.; in 1848, £1518 14s. 3d.; in 1858, £2386 5s. 1d.; in 1868, £3054 18s. 5d.; in 1874, £3468 18s. 7d.; in 1881, £3896 2s. 11d.; and in 1883, £4171 14s. 5d. These funds have not accumulated through the giving of small allowances to recipients, nor through stinginess in the taking on of new alimentaries; for everyone who applies for aid is admitted if legitimately entitled to receive aid. In 1878, £89 was paid to alimentaries; in 1879, £76; in 1880, £75. The members on the roll — that is, males — receive £10 annually, and the widows, £8. In 1881 and 1883 there were on the roll three members and five widows.

The following held the position of boxmaster or convener during the last half century:—1833, E. Buchanan; 1837, James Harvey; 1839, Thomas H. Macfarlane; 1841, William Harvey; 1843, William Muir; 1846, James Harvey; 1848, Graham Menzies; 1851, Thomas Glen; 1854, John Baird; 1857, Thomas Muir; 1861, William Phillips; 1865, H. H. Thomson; 1868, Alexander Cattanach; 1872, Daniel Macfarlane; 1875, William Hodge; 1881, Robert Brown.

The clerks to the society have been as follows:—1750, James Wilson, writer; 1762, Hugh Snodgrass, writer; 1780, Robert Walkinshaw, writer; 1821, William Motherwell; 1829, Alexander Gibson; 1864, John Bartlemore; 1884, Andrew Millar.

The members of the Merchants' Society in 1801 agreed to abandon the former practice of having a supper after the annual election, and to dine instead, "as being more advantageous and agreeable." In 1805 and 1814 the directors agreed to petition Parliament against the Corn Laws, as being "extremely disadvantageous in many respects to the interests of manufacturers." On 24th March, 1825, the members celebrated the centenary of the

society by a dinner in the Saracen's Head Inn, when upwards of eighty of their number assembled on the occasion — Mr. William Sharp in the chair. In the course of the evening, the Chairman stated that the expenditure of the society had been comparatively inconsiderable prior to 1770, but since that period upwards of £5000 had been laid out for the relief of individuals struggling with the misfortunes of life. In October, 1817, the entry-money was increased to £4 4s.; in 1819, to £6 6s.; and in 1837, to £8 8s., which last is the present rate. Sons of members were charged one-half of these sums. In 1810 the funds of the society were £2746 19s. 10d.; in 1821, £3096 16s. 10d.; in 1881, £8526 13s. 10d.; and in 1883, £8921 14s. 10d. In 1883 one member received an allowance of £15; ten widows of members, £12 each; and eleven daughters of members, donations of £6 each — in all, £201.

The following gentlemen have been elected conveners since 1850:—In 1850, Robert Rodger; 1851, Archibald Hutchison; 1852, David Murray; 1853, James Forbes; 1854, Thomas Coats; 1855, Hugh Macfarlane; 1856, James J. Lamb; 1857, Robert Brown; 1858, William Hodge; 1859, James Barclay; 1860, John Baird; 1861, John Hutchison; 1862, James Arthur; 1863, David G. Sharp; 1864, Peter Coats; 1865, John Reid; 1866, Dr. William M'Kechnie; 1867, H. H. Thomson; 1868, Alexander Fullerton; 1869, John Clark; 1870, Alexander Cattanaich; 1871, Andrew Millar, jun.; 1872, Archibald Craig; 1873, James Caldwell; 1874, Alexander King; 1875, William Polson; 1876, Archibald Coats; 1877, Robert Wilson; 1878, John Fullerton; 1879, John Barclay; 1880, Alexander Begg; 1881, James H. Dunn; 1882, Robert Kerr; 1883, Matthew Hodgart.

The last of these four societies which we have to notice is the Hammermen's, which was established in 1761. In April, 1819, the managers agreed that what was called the "bed-fast aliment" should be £2, and "walking-about aliment," £1; and "gratis enterers," 10s. In September, 1828, they resolved that any managers absent from ordinary meetings should be fined 1s., and from elections, 2s. 6d. In September, 1833, the meeting agreed that the annual election should take place in the Saracen's Head Inn at four o'clock, and that the managers and such others as chose should sup at seven o'clock. The hour of supper was changed in the following year to nine o'clock. In August, 1842, the managers agreed that a sum not exceeding 1s. should be allowed from the funds to those present at each meeting; and in September, 1848, 2s. additional was allowed when there were enterers, and 3s. 6d. at elections. In January, 1850, the managers resolved that, from the high respectability of the society and the status it occupies among charitable institutions, a gold medal and chain, with the society's armorial bearings thereon, should be purchased for the boxmaster. This was afterwards carried out at a cost of £60. They appear to have discontinued suppers at the annual elections, as in September, 1851, they agreed to dine in the Saracen's Head Inn at five o'clock.

On 27th August, 1862, John Bartlemore was appointed clerk, in room of Alexander Gibson, who had acted in that capacity for thirty-four years. On 10th October, 1865, the managers agreed, "in respect there is no alimentary at present on the society's funds, the expense of the directors' election dinner be defrayed out of the society's funds." In October, 1875, they agreed that the aliment to indigent members be increased from £1 1s. to £3 3s. annually. In September, 1881, the meeting agreed that the number of directors be increased from nine to twelve, two retiring according to seniority at the annual meeting, who shall not be eligible for re-election that year. The funds of the society in 1850 were £693 os. 9d.; in 1871, £873 7s. 9d.; in 1883, £1401 17s. 9d. In 1883 three members received £3 each, being in all, £9.

This society have a piece of interment ground on the north side



ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF HAMMERMEN'S SOCIETY.

of the High Churchyard, with an ornamented memorial stone placed in the adjoining wall. The following inscription is on the stone :—

“The Property of the Hammermen Society of Paisley, 1796.

“To help the poor is our design
In this our late erection ;
This shall a testimony be
Of this our good intention.”

This society have for their motto :—

“With hammer and hand
All arts doth stand,”

The members of these ancient societies take great delight in the management of their funds, and from our personal knowledge the meetings they have are a source of much social and intellectual pleasure.

List of deacons or boxmasters in the Hammermen Society since the middle of this century :—1850, William Gillespie ; 1851, James J. Lamb ; 1852, John Gilmour ; 1853, John Thomson ; 1854, John C. Sharp ; 1855, Joseph Bow ; 1856, Robert Wilson ; 1857, D. S. Porteous ; 1858, Provost Robert Brown ; 1859, William Craw ; 1860, James Donald ; 1861, James Clark ; 1862, John Carswell ; 1863, Robert Boyd ; 1864, Matthew Blackwood ; 1865, John Cockburn ; 1866, D. G. Sharp ; 1867, P. C. Macgregor ; 1868, John Reid ; 1870 and 1871, Provost Murray ; 1872, James Dobie ; 1873, John Fisher ; 1874, John Barclay ; 1875, Richard Watson ; 1876, Matthew Hodgart ; 1877, Henry Wallach ; 1878, Thomas Reid ; 1879, John Fullerton ; 1880 and 1881, Robert Balderston ; 1882, William Brodie ; 1883, R. C. Cameron.

The Grocers' Company of Paisley was instituted 9th August, 1824. The laws and regulations state that “the grocers of Paisley, considering that human life is exposed to many misfortunes—that individual exertion, however well directed, is not always capable of preventing these misfortunes—and that it is an agreeable solace to an independent mind to know that sickness, old age, or death, cannot render his family altogether destitute, and having formed themselves into an association for the purpose of providing a fund for the relief of such of its members or their families as may unfortunately come to require pecuniary aid, have agreed that it shall be governed according to the laws and regulations hereinafter stipulated.”

This company is entirely charitable, and every person who becomes a member pays £5 of entry-money. In 1867, the funds amounted to £2300, and in 1883 they were £6812. The annuities distributed in 1882 were—to one member £10, and ten females each £10—in all, £110.

Paisley, during the last half of this century, has been particularly fortunate in receiving great public gifts of different kinds from her successful merchants and manufacturers, to the great advantage of the inhabitants. Indeed it may be doubted if any other town can boast of having had so many valuable gratuitous endowments bestowed upon it in a similar space of time. The first of these

generous gifts was in 1866, when Mr. Thomas Coats of Ferguslie bought, on 26th July, six acres of land on the west side of Love Street, known by the name of Hope Temple Gardens. These grounds he beautifully laid off in the form of a garden, with a large fountain in the centre, at an expense of £15,000, and named them the Fountain Gardens. Mr. Coats gave £5000 in addition for their upkeep, and conveyed them over to the Town Council, for behoof of the community, on 26th May, 1868, the anniversary of the Queen's Birthday. The ceremony in the gardens connected with this conveyance was preceded by a grand procession of thousands of the inhabitants through the town, and in the afternoon a public dinner was given in honour of Mr. Coats in the Coffee Room, the largest hall in the town. About 200 gentlemen were present.¹

It was first suggested by the members of the Philosophical Society that there should be a Free Library and Museum in Paisley. At a meeting of that body, held on the 22nd January, 1867, the Rev. Mr. Fraser, the president, announced that he had been authorised to state that Mr. Peter Coats had made the generous offer to erect buildings for such a purpose. On 1st February following, Mr. Coats confirmed this intimation by sending a letter to the Council, that he was ready to erect the necessary buildings, roughly estimated to cost £3000, to be managed by them in accordance with the Act of Parliament on behalf of the inhabitants. On 19th March following, a public meeting of the electors, as appointed under the Library Act, was held in the Gaelic Chapel, and agreed, by a large majority, to adopt the Public Library Act. A site for the buildings was selected on the north side of High Street; and on 27th April, 1869, the day for laying the memorial stone, there was a procession of the trades and others with flags, banners, emblems, and bands of music, throughout the town. The memorial stone was laid by the Right Honourable Earl of Dalhousie, Grand Master Mason of Scotland, in presence of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and an assemblage of other Lodges. Shortly after the completion of these ceremonies, a banquet, at which 400 covers were laid, took place in the Drill Hall. A grand assembly was also held the same evening in the Drill Hall, under the auspices of Colonel Campbell of Blythswood, the Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Provincial Lodge Renfrewshire East. When the buildings were completed, they were handed over, by a deed of conveyance, by Sir Peter Coats to the Magistrates and Town Council on 23rd September, 1870, for behoof of the community, in the Lecture Hall, before a large assemblage, a great number of whom were ladies. In the afternoon, a banquet in honour of Sir Peter Coats was given in the Abercorn Rooms. The institution was formally opened on 11th April, 1871, at a grand conversazione, attended by about 600 ladies and gentlemen, who were specially invited.

¹ The reader is further referred to the illustrated book published by Messrs. J. & J. Cook, Paisley, entitled—"Inauguration Ceremonies in honour of the opening of the Fountain Gardens."

Mr. Peter Coats received the honour of Knighthood from Her Majesty at Windsor Castle on 9th July, 1869.

We refer our readers to the elaborate and beautifully-illustrated work published by Messrs. J. & J. Cook, Paisley, for every particular relating to the establishment of this institution.



PAISLEY FREE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.

The Lending Library has been largely taken advantage of by the inhabitants since it was opened, as is shown by the following statement, which gives the number of volumes lent out each year since it was opened :—

	Arts and Sciences.	Divinity and Theology.	Fiction, Romances, &c.	Speeches, Essays, Collected Works.	History, Biography, &c.	Magazines, Encyclopædias.	Poetry, Dramatic Literature.	Travels, Geography.	TOTALS.
	A	D	F	G	H	M	P	T	
1871,	490	300	18,091	1130	2853	2013	534	1491	26,902 ¹
1872,	1900	1360	44,919	3649	4550	4034	1720	3194	65,326
1873,	2731	1947	53,372	5251	6008	5097	3118	5155	82,679
1874,	2936	2530	44,692	5037	6717	6178	3718	4827	76,635
1875,	3001	2680	39,095	4480	6914	5913	3207	4111	69,401
1876,	1006	628	31,562	1759	4132	5018	837	2253	47,195
1877,	1089	619	30,863	1922	4942	5344	925	2618	48,322
1878,	1633	1021	30,637	2223	5808	5968	1675	3341	52,306
1879,	1387	464	37,104	1865	4760	6323	805	3157	55,865
1880,	1428	463	44,071	1793	4745	6020	706	2914	62,140
1881,	1354	393	31,367	1495	3727	4344	675	2382	45,737
1882,	1448	331	29,822	1629	3281	3209	650	2379	42,749
1883,	1381	339	34,696	1710	3304	2662	740	2005	46,837

¹ Open only from June.

In the Lending Library the number of volumes in the different departments of literature in June, 1871, and in March, 1885, was as follows :—

	1871.	1885.
Arts and Sciences, Natural History, Philosophy,		
Statistics, Political Economy, &c.,	480	1298
Divinity, Law, Medicine, &c.,	692	853
Fiction, Novels, Tales, Romances, &c.,	2291	3672
General Literature, Essays, Collected Works,		
Speeches, Letters, &c.,	759	1108
History, Biography, Diaries, Almanacs, &c.,	2196	3252
Magazines, Periodicals, Dictionaries, Encyclo-		
pædias, &c.,	1321	2049
Poetry, Dramatic Literature, &c.,	416	588
Travels, Geography, Antiquities, Manners and		
Customs, &c.,	1069	1412
Total Volumes,	9224	14,232

The number of volumes of books in the Reference Library in the different departments of literature in March, 1885, is as follows :—

Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts, Natural History, &c.,	1300
Philology, Comparative Grammar, and Languages,	290
Philosophy, Theology, and Education,	675
Encyclopædias, Dictionaries, &c.,	177
General Literature, Essays, Lectures, &c.,	418
History and Biography,	1380
Magazines and other Periodical Publications,	411
Archæology, Antiquities, &c.,	310
Poetry, the Drama, &c.,	339
Geography, Travels, Voyages, &c.,	211
British Museum Publications,	58
Total Volumes,	5569

The Reference Library, Reading Room, and Museum, have also been well attended, so much so that in 1882 extensive additions had to be made to the Library and Museum to afford the necessary accommodation. The additional accommodation then provided was greater than that with which it first opened, consisting of a large museum hall 90 feet by 48 feet ; a picture gallery 80 feet by 27 feet ; a sculpture gallery 24 feet by 27 feet ; a reference library 54 feet by 24 feet ; a vestibule 24 feet in diameter ; a room 31 feet by 14 feet in which volumes of specifications of patents are stored ; an operating room 30 feet by 24 feet ; and several small apartments. These extensions were all done by Sir Peter Coats, and were inaugurated on 22nd September, 1882, when addresses were delivered by the Marquis of Bute and others.

Another munificent gift to the inhabitants of Paisley was the " Brodie Park," consisting of about twenty-two acres of land at High

Carriagehill, bequeathed by Mr. Robert Brodie to the Magistrates and Town Council, "to be held, retained, and applied by them in all time hereafter as pleasure grounds and places of public recreation for the use of the inhabitants."¹ Nearly £3000 was expended by the Council in laying off and ornamenting the park, which was opened on 26th March, 1877. There was first a procession, consisting of various societies, trades, &c., who assembled at St. James Street, and afterwards went to the Brodie Park by Causeyside. About 10,000 persons were estimated to be in the grounds, when Provost Murray, after an eloquent and appropriate address, declared the Brodie Park to be open to the inhabitants of the town. Immediately afterwards, about 50 gentlemen dined in the George Hotel in honour of the occasion.

Mr. Robert Brodie was a bank-accountant in Paisley, and was born at the farm of Kerse, in the parish of Lochwinnoch. This farm had belonged to his father and grandfather. In 1822 he began business as an invoice clerk in the firm of George Houston & Co., Johnstone. He afterwards, through the influence of Mr. Houston, who was a partner in Paisley Union Bank, entered that bank. Subsequently he held situations in the Union Bank, the Paisley Commercial Bank, the Western Bank, and latterly in the National Bank, from which he retired on account of failing health a year before his death. Mr. Brodie's life was not an eventful one, and he acquired his means through careful saving. He never married.

The paramount necessity of having a Town Hall in Paisley, where so many public meetings, concerts, social gatherings, &c., &c., were always being held, was admitted on all hands. Many schemes were devised and efforts made to have a Town Hall. In November, 1872, Mr. James Clark of Chapel, the present Provost (1884), promised, during the municipal elections, to use his best efforts to secure the erection of a public hall. His first aim was to raise £10,000. By the following January £5000 was subscribed, by the 8th March the sums promised amounted to £13,870 10s. 6d., and there was a confident expectation that the subscriptions would soon amount to £20,000. The following is a list of subscriptions:—

J. & P. Coats,	£2000	0	0	George Smith, Mount Blow,			
John Polson,	1000	0	0	Pollokshields,	£200	0	0
J. & J. Clark & Co.,	1000	0	0	Jas. Coats, Park Terrace,			
George A. Clark,	500	0	0	Glasgow,	200	0	0
James Arthur,	500	0	0	William Wotherspoon,	200	0	0
William Holmes & Brothers,	500	0	0	Right Honourable Earl of			
Graham Menzies,	500	0	0	Glasgow,	150	0	0
James Clark, Chapel,	500	0	0	John Scott, London,	105	0	0
R. & J. P. Kerr,	300	0	0	Robert Macalister, Liver-			
Miss Kerr, Gallowhill,	250	0	0	pool,	105	0	0
Patrick Comyn Macgregor,	250	0	0	William Hodge,	100	0	0
H. E. C. Ewing, M.P., ...	250	0	0	Robert Clark, London,	100	0	0
Robert K. Holmes Kerr, ..	250	0	0	Fullerton, Hodgart, & Bar-			
Alexander Cattanach,	200	0	0	clay,	100	0	0

¹ Extract from Mr. Brodie's bequest, dated June, 1870, and codicil, November, 1870. Mr. Brodie died 20th February, 1877.

H. B. Muir, London,	£100	0	0	Gibson, Mackellar, & Co., £20	0	0
John Brown, Thrushcraig, ..	100	0	0	Daniel Richmond, M.D.,...	20	0
Peter Coats, jun.,	100	0	0	Wm. Clapperton & Co.,	20	0
Hanna, Donald, & Wilson, ..	100	0	0	William Polson,	20	0
James Miller & Son,	100	0	0	William Allison,	20	0
Thomas Speir, Burnbrae, ...	100	0	0	John Young & Co.,	20	0
Andrew Coats, Perth,	100	0	0	W. & A. Coats,	20	0
William Fulton & Sons,	100	0	0	Provost Murray,	20	0
Sir M. R. S. Stewart,	100	0	0	John Bell, Mossvale,	20	0
Robert Brown & Son,	100	0	0	Robert Macfarlane, writer,	20	0
William B. Barbour, Man-				James Pollock & Co.,	20	0
chester,	100	0	0	Wm. Holms, Brabloch,	20	0
William Dunn, London, ...	100	0	0	William Johnstone & Co.,	20	0
John M'Innes,	50	0	0	James W. Carlile, Meltham		
George Coats,	50	0	0	Mills, Huddersfield,	20	0
Daniel Coats,	50	0	0	Workers of J. & A. F. Craig		
Hugh B. Barclay,	50	0	0	& Co.,	11	1
Logan & Gardner,	50	0	0	John M'Gown, .	10	0
Sacell Brewery Company,	50	0	0	William Gillespie,	10	0
James Wallace, Glasgow, ...	50	0	0	J. & J. Cook,	10	0
Thomas Greenlees & Son,	50	0	0	Spiers & Gibb,	10	0
Matthew Greenlees & Son,	50	0	0	James Winning,	10	0
John Walker,	50	0	0	William MacIntyre, .	10	0
J. M. Symington,	50	0	0	David Young,	10	0
George Brown, Egypt Park,	50	0	0	William Reid, writer,	10	0
Peter Jack,	50	0	0	Andrew Foulds & Son,	10	0
John Ronald,	50	0	0	Walter M'Gee & Son,	10	0
J. Hutchison, architect, ..	50	0	0	Parlane & Naismith, ...	10	0
J. & A. F. Craig & Co., ...	50	0	0	William Hatrick,	10	0
David Speirs & Co.,	50	0	0	Robertson & Son,	10	0
James Carlile, Sons, & Co.,	50	0	0	<i>North British Daily Mail,</i>	10	0
James Harvey & Co.,	50	0	0	James Murray,	10	0
Matthew Muir & Son, Glas-				David Campbell,	10	0
gow,	50	0	0	Lamberton & Tenant,	10	0
Peter Kerr & Son,	50	0	0	Foulds, Gilmour, & Co., ...	10	0
William Clark, Newark,				William Foulds,	10	0
New Jersey, U.S.,	50	0	0	William Murray,	10	0
Dalziel & Begg,	30	0	0	Thomas Murray,	10	0
Wallace, Connell, & Co., ...	30	0	0	Thomas Reid & Son,	10	0
Matthew Whitehill & Co.,	30	0	0	Robert Murdoch,	10	0
John A. Brown,	25	0	0	William Hector, Sheriff-		
D. S. Porteous,	25	0	0	Clerk,	10	0
William Abercrombie,	25	0	0	Andrew Millar, sen.,	10	0
Archibald Craig,	25	0	0	John Lorimer,	10	0
James Boyd & Son,	25	0	0	Peter Brough,	10	0
Daniel Macfarlane, Lady				James M'Murchie,	10	0
Lane,	25	0	0	Crawford & Ritchie,	10	0
Archibald Gardner, writer,	25	0	0	William Coats, sen.,	10	0
William Brown, Sunnyside,	25	0	0	James H. Dunn,	10	0
Mrs. Philips, Stamford, ...	25	0	0	Hugh Macfarlane,	10	0
George Hamilton,	25	0	0	Campbell, Sons, & Co.,	10	0
Misses Macfarlane, Canal				W. R.,	10	0
Bank,	25	0	0	Robin & Houston, ..	10	0
Wm. Philips & Co.,	25	0	0	Archibald Barr,	10	0
James Watson, Lord Provost				John Bartlemore,	10	0
of Glasgow,	25	0	0	Jonathan Thomson, Glas-		
Francis Martin,	20	0	0	gow,	10	0
John Morgan,	20	0	0	John H. Macalister,	10	0
Alexander King & Son, ...	20	0	0	Robert A. Ronald,	10	0
J. Clark & Co.,	20	0	0	James Caldwell & Son,	10	0
Archibald Bell,	20	0	0	Robert Walker,	10	0

Paisley Co operative Manu- facturing Society, per J. M'Kenzie,	£10	0	0	William Cross, Glasgow,	£5	0	0
William Foulds, George Street, second Subscription,	10	0	0	John Robin,	5	0	0
Adam Currie,	10	0	0	Robert Guthrie,	5	0	0
Dr. R. S. Mair, London, ...	10	0	0	Hugh Calderwood,	5	0	0
John M. Stewart, Greenhill, ..	10	0	0	James Wood,	5	0	0
John M'William, Gateside, ..	10	0	0	James Drybrough,	5	0	0
Hugh Wright, Alticry,	10	0	0	Cochran & M'Gechan,	5	0	0
A Few of the Workers of Fullerton, Hodgart, & Bar- clay,	8	6	6	Francis Halden,	5	0	0
James Bryce,	7	0	0	James Paterson & Co.,	5	0	0
Drs. Donald & Colligan,	7	0	0	William Crow,	5	0	0
David Annan, London,	5	5	0	David Melville,	5	0	0
J. P. Kerr (arbitration fee), ..	5	5	0	Robert Russell, writer,	5	0	0
A. Kirk Mackie, S.S.C., Edinburgh,	5	5	0	Isdale & M'Callum,	5	0	0
Robert Eaglesim,	5	0	0	James Roy Fraser,	5	0	0
Andrew Wallace & Son,	5	0	0	Sheriff Cowan,	5	0	0
T. & R. Graham,	5	0	0	Thomas M'Robert,	5	0	0
David Gilmour,	5	0	0	Pollock & Cochran,	5	0	0
James Johnston,	5	0	0	R. H. Lang,	5	0	0
Robert Smith,	5	0	0	Clark & Turnbull,	5	0	0
Robert Paterson,	5	0	0	J. B. Hunter, M.D.,	5	0	0
Bailie Cochran,	5	0	0	J. B. Lamb,	5	0	0
John Andrews,	5	0	0	Muir & Anderson,	5	0	0
William Cochran,	5	0	0	Rev. W. France,	5	0	0
Robert Cowan,	5	0	0	Matthew Scott,	5	0	0
Bailie Watson,	5	0	0	Dr. Cochran,	5	0	0
Eadie Brothers,	5	0	0	Charles Wallace,	5	0	0
Robert Barr,	5	0	0	Alexander Boyd,	5	0	0
William M'Arthur,	5	0	0	Wm. Abercrombie, jun.,	5	0	0
George Dobie,	5	0	0	Wm. Gilmour, Camphill,	5	0	0
Robertson & M'Gibbon,	5	0	0	John Galloway, Glasgow,	5	0	0
Matthew Swan,	5	0	0	Smith, Sons, & Lauchland, ..	5	0	0
William Morrison,	5	0	0	Macfarlane, Philips, & Co., ..	5	0	0
J. & R. Parlance,	5	0	0	Patrick MacGregor,	5	0	0
Thomas Graham, M.D.,	5	0	0	John Cowan, Gateside,	5	0	0
Captain Fullarton,	5	0	0	Robert Balderston,	5	0	0
David Taylor, M.D.,	5	0	0	Andrew Walker,	5	0	0
Bowie & Son,	5	0	0	Robert Russell, St. James Place,	5	0	0
John Spence,	5	0	0	John Peden,	5	0	0
James Mackean, Castlehead, ..	5	0	0	Ross R. Auld, Glasgow,	5	0	0
R. & J. Pinkerton,	5	0	0	Andrew Millar, jun.,	5	0	0
George Hart,	5	0	0	Councillor Ker,	5	0	0
<i>Glasgow Herald</i> ,	5	0	0	W. & J. Whitehead,	5	0	0
Matthew Blackwood,	5	0	0	Thomas Crichton,	5	0	0
Archibald Hodge,	5	0	0	Dunlop Brothers, Glasgow, ..	5	0	0
W. & J. Lang,	5	0	0	John Millar, Mossvale,	5	0	0
J. Snodgrass, miller,	5	0	0	W. Caldwell & Co., Glasgow, ..	5	0	0
James Caldwell,	5	0	0	Barr & Reid,	5	0	0
James Ritchie,	5	0	0	J. & W. Hutchison,	5	0	0
James Yuill,	5	0	0	John Martin, W.S., Edin- burgh,	5	0	0
James M'Ghee,	5	0	0	James S. Brown,	4	0	0
Bailie Masson,	5	0	0	James B. Brown,	4	0	0
T. R. Cameron,	5	0	0	Robert Paterson,	4	0	0
William Gibson,	5	0	0	George R. Hislop,	3	3	0
Matthew Brown,	5	0	0	James Adam,	3	3	0
P. Gilleaume,	5	0	0	James Robertson, Stow Place, Part of Surplus from Soiree and Ball of Glasgow and Paisley Joint Railway Employes,	3	3	0

John M'Kay,.....	£3	3	0	William Wills & Co.,.....	£2	0	0
James Wills,.....	3	0	0	John Rodger,.....	2	0	0
Patrick M'Ghee,.....	3	0	0	William Duncan,.....	2	0	0
W. Currie, jun.,.....	3	0	0	A. & D. S. Semple,.....	2	0	0
Robert Robertson, inspector,	3	0	0	Rev. James Brown,.....	2	0	0
Robert Caldwell,.....	3	0	0	Charles Henderson,.....	2	0	0
Ninian F. M'Leod, M.D.,...	3	0	0	Robert M'Walter,.....	2	0	0
Gordon & Barclay,.....	3	0	0	Fisher & Co.,.....	2	0	0
James Gibson,.....	3	0	0	Patrick Costello,.....	2	0	0
William Bowes,.....	3	0	0	Gavin Kerr,.....	2	0	0
Workers of Wm. Fulton				J. T. Smith,.....	2	0	0
& Co., Glenfield,.....	2	13	6	Armstrong & M'Nair,.....	2	0	0
James Dobie,.....	2	10	0	Hugh Gibson,.....	2	0	0
Mrs. Clark,.....	2	10	0	James Lang,.....	2	0	0
Mrs. Macfee,.....	2	10	0	Rev. Dr. Thomson,.....	2	0	0
John Gibb,.....	2	2	0	Robert Roxburgh,.....	2	0	0
Campbell & M'Lennan,.....	2	2	0	Thomas Hart,.....	2	0	0
D. Murray, jun., & Co.,.....	2	2	0	Councillor Lewis,.....	2	0	0
Robert Hay & Son,.....	2	2	0	Rev. Robert Duncan,.....	2	0	0
John Snodgrass,.....	2	2	0	Thomas Fraser, Belfast,.....	2	0	0
John M'Innes, Broomlands,	2	2	0	George Y. Hendry, Girvan,	2	0	0
Robert R. Hatrick,.....	2	2	0	J. K.,.....	2	0	0
John Galt,.....	2	2	0	Robert Risk & Co.,.....	2	0	0
William Brodie & Co.,.....	2	2	0	William Nairne,.....	2	0	0
John Jaap,.....	2	0	0	Ritchie & Pinkerton,.....	2	0	0
J. B. Newlands,.....	2	0	0	Thomas M'Arthur,.....	2	0	0
Gavin Crawford,.....	2	0	0	Andrew Templeton,.....	2	0	0
Hugh Morton,.....	2	0	0	Robert Houston,.....	2	0	0
Robert Barbour,.....	2	0	0	George Barr,.....	2	0	0
J. & D. Ure,.....	2	0	0	H. Stirling,.....	2	0	0
Bonnar & Hamilton,.....	2	0	0	Dr. Falconer,.....	2	0	0
James Cunningham,.....	2	0	0	J. Pinkerton, Wellmeadow,	2	0	0
Charles Smith,.....	2	0	0	J. B.,.....	2	0	0
J. B. Hatrick,.....	2	0	0	James Hunter,.....	2	0	0
William Peattie,.....	2	0	0	John Smith,.....	1	4	0
Robert Harris,.....	2	0	0	Donald Fraser, M.D.,.....	1	1	0
George M'Kenzie,.....	2	0	0	Rev. J. C. Balderston, West			
Bow, M'Lachlan, & Co.,.....	2	0	0	Kilbride,.....	1	1	0
Joseph Russell,.....	2	0	0	T. Robertson,.....	1	1	0
Robert Allan,.....	2	0	0	T. Smith, Industrial School,	1	1	0
Adam Kelly,.....	2	0	0	Thomas Kelso,.....	1	0	0
A Mackellar,.....	2	0	0	Francis Percy,.....	1	0	0
James Pinkerton,.....	2	0	0	John Fisher,.....	1	0	0
Alexander Mitchell,.....	2	0	0	John Bell,.....	1	0	0
Thomas M'Kaig,.....	2	0	0	William Anderson, jun.,.....	1	0	0
R. L. Henderson,.....	2	0	0	William Watson,.....	1	0	0
Treasurer Russell,.....	2	0	0	George Smith Clark, Chapel,	1	0	0
Walter Hogg,.....	2	0	0	James Clark, jun., ..	1	0	0
D. M'Nair,.....	2	0	0	Robert Clark, ..	1	0	0
A. Paterson,.....	2	0	0	Matthew Blair,.....	1	0	0
Robert Taylor,.....	2	0	0	David Carswell,.....	1	0	0
William Macausland,.....	2	0	0	Robert Macintyre,.....	1	0	0
James M'Lardie,.....	2	0	0	James Stewart,.....	1	0	0
Thomas Wilson, builder,.....	2	0	0	J. N. Gardner,.....	1	0	0
Rev. James Dodds,.....	2	0	0	W. B. Stirrat,.....	1	0	0
Thomas Drennan,.....	2	0	0	Alexander Gardner, book-			
W. M. Morrison,.....	2	0	0	seller,.....	1	0	0
J. S. Smiles,.....	2	0	0	John Lymburn, ..	1	0	0
J. B. Barr,.....	2	0	0	William Smith,.....	1	0	0
John Gillespie,.....	2	0	0	William Pollock,.....	1	0	0
Thomas Cullen,.....	2	0	0	John Wallace,.....	1	0	0

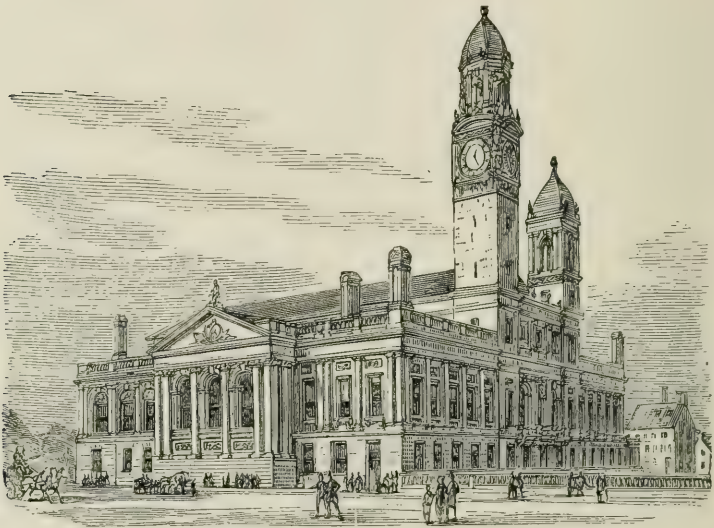
George Weir,	£1	0	0	George Robertson,.....	£1	0	0
Robert M'Nish,	1	0	0	James Storie,.....	1	0	0
Isaac Richardson,.....	1	0	0	Andrew Erskine,	1	0	0
David Fleming,.....	1	0	0	D. M'Kellar,.....	1	0	0
Matthew Gibb,.....	1	0	0	James Glass,.....	1	0	0
Alexander Todd,	1	0	0	Hugh Caldwell,	1	0	0
T. B. M'Lennan,.....	1	0	0	Rev. G. C. Hutton,.....	1	0	0
J. Hamilton,.....	1	0	0	William Park,.....	1	0	0
Duncan M'Nair,.....	1	0	0	Thomas Scollan,	1	0	0
James Kilpatrick,.....	1	0	0	John Galbraith,.....	1	0	0
William Reid, jun.,.....	1	0	0	W. & A. Millar,.....	1	0	0
James Aikman,.....	1	0	0	John Wright,.....	1	0	0
William Gilmour,.....	1	0	0	Alexander Morrison,	1	0	0
R. Cochran,.....	1	0	0	William Melvin, Glasgow,...	1	0	0
Mark Cook,.....	1	0	0	John M'Ghee,.....	1	0	0
John M'Nicol,	1	0	0	H. Buchanan,.....	1	0	0
R. F. M'Gibbon,.....	1	0	0	Duncan Campbell,.....	1	0	0
R. Gilchrist,.....	1	0	0	John Marshall,.....	1	0	0
J. M'Dougal,.....	1	0	0	Robert Oliver,.....	1	0	0
William Watson, High Street,	1	0	0	John Anderson,.....	1	0	0
William Paul,.....	1	0	0	Peter Sinclair,	1	0	0
Thomas Goodlet,.....	1	0	0	Malcolm Gemmell,	1	0	0
A. Meikle,.....	1	0	0	William Speirs,.....	1	0	0
John Graham,.....	1	0	0	John Buchanan,.....	1	0	0
John Thomson,	1	0	0	John Kirk,.....	1	0	0
J. Adam & Son,.....	1	0	0	William Ronald,	1	0	0
J. Kilpatrick,.....	1	0	0	Robert Stirling,.....	1	0	0
Barr & M'Caig,.....	1	0	0	Matthew Paul,.....	1	0	0
J. Morrison,.....	1	0	0	Thomas Kerr,.....	1	0	0
P. M'Dermid,.....	1	0	0	Alexander Morton,	1	0	0
J. Anderson,.....	1	0	0	Wilson & Strachan,.....	1	0	0
William Campbell,	1	0	0	Reid & Arthur,.....	1	0	0
William Pollock,.....	1	0	0	J. R. Macfadyen,.....	1	0	0
R. L. Hill,.....	1	0	0	W. H. Murray,.....	1	0	0
J. Spence,.....	1	0	0	George Russell, Enniskillen,	1	0	0
Peter Lees,	1	0	0	Robert Patrick,.....	1	0	0
John Lyle,	1	0	0	Robert Hunter,.....	1	0	0
R. Goudie,.....	1	0	0	John Robertson,.....	1	0	0
R. Orchardson,.....	1	0	0	William Buchanan,	1	0	0
J. Robertson, calenderer,....	1	0	0	Robert Ritchie,.....	1	0	0
David Robertson, calenderer,	1	0	0	J. Anderson,.....	1	0	0
Matthew Wagstaff,.....	1	0	0	Dalrymple Lyle,.....	1	0	0
G. Maclerie,.....	1	0	0	John Cowan, 3 Love Street,	1	0	0
James Steel, High Street, ...	1	0	0	John Clark, baker,.....	1	0	0
Thomas M'Queen,.....	1	0	0	Robert Wilson,	1	0	0
J. & J. Brown,.....	1	0	0	Donald Sutherland,.....	1	0	0
J. G. Meiklejohn,.....	1	0	0	R. D. M.,.....	1	0	0
James Steel, draper,.....	1	0	0	A. M'Leod,	1	0	0
John Stirling,	1	0	0	David Fechnie, sen.,.....	1	0	0
Thomas Stevenson,	1	0	0	James Fechnie,	1	0	0
William Simm,.....	1	0	0	R. S. Wylie,.....	1	0	0
James Crossley,.....	1	0	0	M. Mackellar,.....	1	0	0
William Cunningham & Co, ..	1	0	0	Rev. A. Clark, Gatehouse,	1	0	0
Robert Macfarlane,	1	0	0	Andrew Taylor,	1	0	0
James Thomson,.....	1	0	0	J. Robertson,.....	1	0	0
James Weir,	1	0	0	Wm. Brown, jun.,.....	1	0	0
William Smith,.....	1	0	0	James Renfrew,.....	1	0	0
W. B. Watson,	1	0	0	Alexander Caldwell,.....	1	0	0
James Bryce, North Croft,...	1	0	0	Wm. Ewing,.....	1	0	0
John Thomson, stationer,...	1	0	0	James Walker,.....	1	0	0
J. & J. Knox,.....	1	0	0	Robert Hamilton,.....	1	0	0

John Brighton,.....	£1	0	0	William Neilson,.....	£1	0	0
James Renfrew,.....	1	0	0	D. Begg, jun., 66 Love Street,	1	0	0
James Gillespie,.....	1	0	0	Robert Craig,	1	0	0
James M'Lachlan,	1	0	0	Archibald Malcolm,	1	0	0
John Barclay,	1	0	0	William Allan,.....	1	0	0
Wm. Welsh,	1	0	0	James Buchanan,.....	1	0	0
Wm. Robin,.....	1	0	0	James Young,.....	1	0	0
John Aitken,.....	1	0	0	J. Mitchell,	1	0	0
James Gemmell,.....	1	0	0	A. Sproul,.....	1	0	0
John Stewart,	1	0	0	J. Carswell,.....	1	0	0
Matthew M'Leod,.....	1	0	0	George Dick, teacher,.....	1	0	0
John Gilmour, Moss Street,	1	0	0	James Andrew, jun.,.....	1	0	0
Andrew Mitchell,	1	0	0	John Lang, Moss Street,....	1	0	0
William Christie,.....	1	0	0	Rev. John Campbell, Tarbert,	1	0	0
Thomas Dick,	1	0	0	Rev. George Clazy,.....	1	0	0
James Ross, teller,.....	1	0	0	Samuel Scarlet,.....	1	0	0
William Brownlie,	1	0	0	Peter Clark,	1	0	0
David Begg,.....	1	0	0	Alex. Gardner,.....	1	0	0
John Begg,.....	1	0	0	D. Macstravick,	1	0	0
John Logan,.....	1	0	0	J. Anderson,	1	0	0
Thomas Linn,.....	1	0	0	John Boyle,.....	1	0	0
Thomas M'Gregor,.....	1	0	0	Robert Bird, sen.,.....	1	0	0
J. F. Lochhead,.....	1	0	0	John Orchardson,	1	0	0
William Richmond,.....	1	0	0	Sums of 10s. and under,.....	3	3	0
Jonathan Paterson,.....	1	0	0	Sums under 10s.,.....	6	7	0
Robert Watson,	1	0	0	Sums under One Pound,.....	0	10	0
James Goudie, cooper,.....	1	0	0				

Amount Subscribed to 8th March, 1873, when the Subscriptions
were stopped,.....£13,870 10 6

At this period Messrs. Clark, of the Anchor Thread Mills, Paisley, were informed that their brother, Mr. Geo. A. Clark, had died suddenly at Newark, New Jersey, U.S., America, on the 13th February. A fortnight afterwards, they intimated to the Town Council that their brother, among other donations, had bequeathed as follows:—"To remedy a want long felt in my native town of Paisley, I bequeath to the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council, the sum of £20,000, for the erection of a Town Hall, and combined with this hall a large reading room for working men, where they can sit in comfort and enjoy smoking; and the room shall be open from five o'clock in the morning until twelve o'clock at night; said building shall be erected in that part of Paisley called the New Town." On the announcement of this important intelligence, it was proposed, at a meeting of the subscribers to the Town Hall, that their money should be added to Mr. Clark's bequest, in order to secure a superior building; but the Messrs. Clark intimated that whatever extra money was required they would themselves willingly contribute. The site of the present hall was secured at a cost of about £9000, competitive plans of a hall to cost £20,000 were advertised for, and 54 sets of plans were given in. The plans furnished by Messrs. Rennison & Scott, architects, Paisley, were awarded the first prize, but those sent by Mr. W. H. Lynn, architect, Belfast, were ultimately adopted. Contractors for the different kinds of work were engaged, and the foundation-stone was laid on 22nd October, 1879, by Mrs. Clark, the mother of the donor. On 30th January, 1882, the day fixed to inaugurate the

opening of the new Town Hall, there were first a grand procession of trades and others, with flags, ensigns, and bands of instrumental music. The procession was estimated to contain 12,000 persons, and it extended to about a mile and a-half in length. Many of the houses, particularly in the line of the procession, were decorated with evergreens, flags, and emblems. The ceremony of handing over the hall took place at the conclusion of the processioning. In the evening there was a general illumination throughout the whole town, and fireworks were discharged from the battlements of the High Church steeple. On the invitation of Messrs. Clark, 1000 ladies and gentlemen met in the hall in the evening at a grand conversazione.¹ We give a view of part of the George A. Clark Town Hall.²



GEORGE A. CLARK TOWN HALL.

¹ We must again refer the reader to a beautifully-illustrated publication of Messrs. J. & J. Cook's, giving a minute and able account of everything relating to the erection of this hall and the ceremonies attending its opening.

² *Tariff of the Large Hall*—For a public meeting or concert, with grand entrance and cloak-room, £7; with grand entrance, cloak-rooms, and use of rooms for chorus and orchestra, £8; for a ball, with grand entrance, cloak-rooms, and north hall and balcony, £10 2s. 6d.; for a ball or banquet, with grand entrance, cloak-rooms, and use of two adjoining halls on ground floor, kitchen, &c., entire buildings, £20; for a banquet, with all the ground floor, basement, and kitchen, special arrangement; for Sunday service, forenoon or afternoon, £1 5s; evening, £2. *The North Minor Hall*—Ground floor for chamber concert, &c., entrance from Smithhills Street, for lecture, &c., £2; with kitchen and cloak-rooms, for a ball, £2 17s. 6d.; with kitchen, for a dinner or soiree, £2 10s. *South Minor Hall*—For chamber concert or meeting, entrance by Abbey Close, £2. Organ rates charged in addition to rent of hall. When hired for evening performance, £1 11s. 6d.; when required only while the audience is assembling, £1 1s.

The circumstances connected with the presentation of the Observatory by Mr. Thomas Coats to the Philosophical Society, for the benefit of the inhabitants, may be shortly narrated here. Mr. James Cook, at the annual meeting of the members of the society held on 5th October, 1880, suggested that, in order to encourage the study of astronomy in the town, a telescope, for which a place might be found in the new buildings about to be erected by Sir Peter Coats, should be acquired by the society. The matter was favourably entertained, and the council of the society was authorised to carry out the proposal if they deemed this expedient. They agreed it should be done, the cost to be defrayed from the funds of the society. At this stage Mr. Coats generously offered to provide the telescope, with the necessary erections connected therewith, and the offer was thankfully accepted. The memorial stone of this building was laid on the 8th March, 1882, and Mr. Coats was presented by the Philosophical Society with a handsome silver trowel for the occasion. When the buildings were completed, a *conversazione*, consisting of the members of the society and others, was held on the 18th October, 1882, in the Free Library and Museum, when Mr. Coats, after an address, presented a deed conveying the site, tower, and other buildings, along with the telescope, to the Philosophical Society, for the benefit of the inhabitants. He also provided a fund for its future maintenance. About 800 invitations to this *conversazione* were issued. It is understood that this gift cost Mr. Coats in all about £6000.

Mr. Thomas Coats was born in Paisley on 18th October, 1809, and died, after a few months' confinement to his bed-room, on 15th October, 1883. The funeral, which was a public one, took place on the 18th of that month. The shops were almost all shut between two and four o'clock. So, too, were many of the offices, warehouses, and public works. The flags on the top of the County Buildings floated half-mast high, and the bell of the High Church and several other churches in town were tolled during the time of the funeral. Besides the devotional services in Ferguslie House, there were special religious services in the Baptist Church, Storie Street, where the deceased had worshipped, and in St. George's Parish Church. The funeral procession to the cemetery consisted of from 7000 to 8000 children belonging to the Board Schools of the town, the Grammar School, the John Neilson Institution, and the Ragged School. The number of gentlemen in the cortege was nearly 1000, and the mournful procession on its way to the Cemetery was witnessed by many thousands of sympathising spectators.

By the death of Mr. Peter Brough of Oakshawhead House, Paisley, which took place on the 18th July, 1883, the town of Paisley became the recipient of a number of munificent bequests. The estate amounts to upwards of £155,000. The trustees appointed to carry out the purposes of Mr. Brough's settlement are — Sheriff Cowan, Provost Clark, Rev. Thomas Gentles, M.A., of the first charge of the Abbey

Church ; Rev. James B. Sturrock, minister of the Free High Church ; Rev. John Porteous, minister of Oakshaw Street U.P. Church ; Patrick Miller Brough, nephew of the testator ; Mr. Thomas Muir, Annfield, Castlehead ; and Mr. John Neilson Gardner, Nethercommon House. The continuity of the trusteeship is to be maintained by the successors in office of the five first-named gentlemen coming in their room ; and, in the case of the three last-named, vacancies are to be from time to time filled up by the appointment of other non-official trustees. After making numerous private bequests to his relatives, the testator instructs his trustees to hold the residue of his estates as a permanent fund, to be called "The Peter Brough Bequest Fund ;" and to apply the annual income in the promotion and maintenance of the following religious, educational, and charitable objects, viz. :—

First.—£600 annually in employing such number as they may judge proper of qualified females (or of males when they deem it expedient), who shall devote their whole time to the visiting and comforting of afflicted Christians, and to the reading to them of the Bible. The field of such females' labours is limited to the Parliamentary boundary of Paisley, but the trustees have power to extend the same to districts in the neighbourhood. Coals and clothing may be provided from this fund to persons recommended by the visitors. Certain rules are laid down for carrying out this part of the bequest fund.

Second.—£500 annually to the Deacons' Court of the Free High Church, Paisley, to be expended thus :—The first four annual payments (£2000) in obtaining a suitable site, and erecting thereon a building in which the workers of the congregation may carry on their labours, and which the testator desires shall be called "The Margaret Brough Memorial Hall," in memory of his beloved sister ; and the future annual payments of £500 are to be applied by the Deacons' Court in promoting evangelical labours in Scotland, or in furthering missionary labours abroad, in such manner and in such proportions as to them from time to time shall seem most fitted to do good.

Third.—£200 yearly to the Paisley Auxiliary to the National Bible Society of Scotland, for furthering the objects of that society.

Fourth.—£500 yearly in paying 100 annual bursaries (to be given by competitive exhibition) of £5 each to boys (being Protestants) between 6 and 15 years of age, who shall have resided within the Parliamentary boundaries of Paisley for at least two years before the bursary is conferred, and who shall, while the bursary is held, be in regular attendance in some public Protestant school within Paisley. The trustees have power to alter the number and amount of these bursaries.

Fifth.—£100 annually to the directors of the John Neilson Endowment Educational Institution, Paisley, to mark the testator's appreciation of the good work carried on in his immediate neighbourhood (Oakshawhead). The Neilson directors are free to expend as they may deem most desirable.

Sixth.—£100 annually to the Paisley Ragged and Industrial School, to be expended as the directors may direct.

Seventh.—£300 annually in establishing and maintaining a science lectureship and its necessary adjuncts and accessories in Paisley. The testator's trustees have ample powers as to fixing the subjects to be taught (one of which he recommends should be physiology), and they are generally to control everything connected with the lectureship.

Eighth.—£100 annually among such poor but deserving widows in Paisley as his trustees may select as worthy to participate, and in such sums, and at such times, as his trustees may think desirable.

Ninth.—£100 annually to the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Paisley, for purchasing and distributing coals to poor but deserving persons or families in Paisley.

Tenth.—£100 annually to the Paisley Infirmary ; and,

Lastly.—The testator's trustees are authorised and instructed to expend the remainder of the income of "The Peter Brough Bequest Fund" in the promotion and maintenance of such other religious and educational work, missionary operations, and charitable or benevolent schemes, as they may select as worthy of encouragement—the number to be chosen and the amount to be paid to each, and generally the whole management, being entirely left to their discretion.

The trustees have power to increase or diminish the amounts to be given, as before stated, under the bequest fund. Full powers are otherwise conferred upon the trustees. It is anticipated that a large income will be available under the last head of the "Peter Brough Bequest Fund." Mr. Brough's will is dated 5th November, 1879.

Mr. Brough was born at Scone, Perthshire, on 25th September, 1797. His great-grandfather, David Brough, who was a gardener, was brought from England to that village by Lord Mansfield, head of the Stormont family. His son, David Brough, the grandfather of Peter Brough, was a tailor by trade in Scone. His second son, David, was the father of Peter Brough. In addition to his business as a tailor, David Brough after his marriage entered into the grain and meal trade. Peter Brough received his education at the parish school of Scone, where he acquired considerable proficiency in the usual branches taught in schools of that kind in the country. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to Mr. Robert Wylie, cloth merchant, Perth, for a term of three years, without any salary, but with a promise of £5 at the end of the engagement if he behaved properly. Mr. Brough did satisfy Mr. Wylie, who gave him £5 as promised, and further engaged him for a year at a salary of £14. On the expiry of this engagement, he went to Edinburgh, and although he called at all the cloth shops he was unsuccessful in obtaining a situation. Shortly afterwards he went to Glasgow, and, after much labour and anxiety, got a temporary situation at a small salary there ; but a few months thereafter he obtained an engagement

with a Mr. Harvey, mercer, at an annual salary of £50. When he had been six months in that situation Mr. Harvey opened a shop in Paisley, and sent Mr. Brough to take charge of it. In less than a year afterwards Mr. Harvey offered the stock in the shop to Mr. Brough at a valuation, requiring acceptances in payment of the same at three, six, nine, twelve, and fifteen months. Mr. Brough agreed to this proposal, the value of the stock in the shop amounting to £450. In this way Mr. Brough, on 1st October, 1816, entered into business on his own account when little more than nineteen years of age, and the only cash he possessed was £20, lent to him by his father. His first place of business was the single shop taken by Mr. Harvey in Wright's Land, High Street; but in 1818 he removed to the double shop No. 96 High Street, which he afterwards occupied so long as he remained in business. He bought this property in 1844. His first year in business was a successful one, and year by year thereafter it continued to improve, less or more. During the first two years of his residence in Paisley he lived in lodgings, but in 1818 he leased a house in the town's buildings at the Cross, and furnished it at an expense of £200.¹ His sister, Margaret, kept house for him, and was his closest companion till her death. In 1824 he opened a shop in Crieff under the management of one of his young shopmen, but not being very profitable, it was after a few years given up.

In 1830 Mr. Brough was elected a member of the Town Council, and two years afterwards he was raised to the dignity of the Magistracy, which office he held for one year. In 1836 he was chosen to fill the honourable position of a Justice of Peace for the County of Renfrew. In 1852 he was elected one of the representatives of the Fourth Ward for the Council Board, which seat he filled in a satisfactory manner during the statutory period. In March, 1862, Mr. Brough was elected a director of the Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company, and continued in the management for several years.

Prior to 1843 Mr. Brough worshipped in St. George's Parish Church, but at the great secession in that year he left the Established Church to join the Free High Church, in which he took an active interest during the remainder of his life.

Being anxious for relief from the continuous trouble of attending to the shop, Mr. Brough in 1837 gave up the business he had established in Kilmarnock in 1832, under the firm of Galloway, Sharp, & Co., and assumed Mr. Sharp as a partner under the name of Brough & Sharp. This copartnery continued till 1846, when it

¹ In 1824 he removed from this dwelling-house to No. 10 Bridge Street, occupied at present by Mr. Robert Paterson. In 1836 he went to live at Garthland Place, but he removed in 1839 to Mr. Leishman's house in Oakshaw; and that property having been bought by Mr. J. M. Symington in 1852, he removed to Mr. Macalister's house, also in Oakshaw. In November, 1855, he purchased the house and garden adjoining on the east the property last named, which belonged to Mr. M'Kenzie, and to it he removed and in it remained till his death.

was dissolved, and a new one formed under the name of William Miller & Co., Mr. Miller being then one of his young men in the shop. In 1855 this copartnery was also dissolved, and Mr. Brough, by arrangement, sold off all the stock, thereby ceasing to have anything to do with shop business.

Mr. Brough's sister, Margaret, who was an amiable woman, and did everything to promote his comfort, died, to his great grief, on 4th August, 1879.

For some years previous to his death, from feebleness consequent upon old age and from the life of seclusion which he latterly cherished, Mr. Brough was seldom seen on the streets of Paisley. It was while temporarily residing at Gourrock that he died, after a few hours' illness, on 18th July, 1883, as already stated. Mr. Brough never married.

The first stock that Mr. Brough purchased was in 1832, being fifty shares in the Western Bank of Scotland. This he sold before that company suspended payments on 15th November, 1857. Mr. Brough, besides being pious and upright, was a shrewd, thoughtful man, and a successful investor in the stocks of public companies, and it was in this way he amassed most of the large fortune he left behind him.¹

Mr. Brough's remains are interred in the Paisley Cemetery, and the inscription on the monument erected by his trustees over his grave is as follows :—

“The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised.”—1 Cor. xv. 52.

ERECTED
in memory of
PETER BROUGH, Esquire,
of Oakshawhead House, Paisley.

Born 25th September, 1797.

Died 18th July, 1883.

In a long and prosperous business
career he amassed a large fortune,
which he bequeathed for the pro-
motion of religious, scientific, and
philanthropic objects.

Non sibi sed aliis vixit.

(*He lived not for himself, but for others.*)

Also,
In memory of his brothers, Thomas,
David, and John ;
and his sisters,
Ann and Margaret Brough.

¹ The foregoing information relating to Mr. Brough has been obtained from the diary he kept, of which Mr. James Gardner, clerk and treasurer to “The Peter Brough Bequest Fund,” has kindly granted us the use.

Though Paisley has its share in the vicissitudes of the weather, we do not think it suffers so severely as most other districts in Scotland. The south-west is of course the prevailing wind; and this, combined with the nearness of the high hills in Renfrewshire to the Atlantic Ocean, accounts for the greater humidity of the atmosphere in the west than in the east of Scotland. The rainfall at Dalkeith in 1809 was 28 inches (omitting decimals); at Glasgow Observatory, 25; and at Largs, 38. There have been frequent severe frosts, storms of wind, rain, and snow, and some of them have been accompanied with lightning and thunder. A few of the most remarkable statistics of the weather may be given. In 1808 there was a severe snowstorm on the first of April; and during the last three days of May in the following year a great deal of snow fell, by which many fruit trees were injured, and the crops of both large and small fruit much diminished. This snowstorm was most unexpected, not being preceded nor followed by frost. In January, 1814, the river Clyde and all its tributaries were completely frozen, so that the water in the most rapid parts was covered with ice, which was so strong at the ordinary fords as to admit of loaded carts passing over. At this time the navigation of the Glasgow and Paisley Canal was closed for six weeks. On 23rd April, 1827, there was a heavy fall of snow; and in February, 1831, the snowfall was so great as to derange all transit operations. The mail coach from Greenock, drawn by three horses, stuck in a wreath of snow near Barnsford Bridge; and the passage boats on the canal were stopped for a week.

At a meeting of the Paisley Philosophical Society, held on 3rd May, 1870, the late Dr. Cochran, of Wellmeadow Street, read an interesting paper on the annual rainfall of Scotland contrasted with the rainfall of other countries. He said — “The rainfall in England over a period of years averaged from the returns of upwards of 1000 stations (omitting decimals) 33 inches; in Scotland, 32 inches; in Ireland, 29 inches,—the average of the kingdom being 31 inches per annum. Taking last year by itself, the average was as follows:—In England, 37 inches; in Ireland, 34 inches; in Scotland, 33 inches. Taking the towns of Scotland, the following was the result for the last year:—

	Days of Rain.				Quantity.
Edinburgh,		(no return)
Glasgow,	224	39 inches.
Dundee,	126	24 „
Aberdeen,...	245	30 „
Paisley,	143	44 „
Greenock,...	215	64 „

This showed a great difference in the amount of the rainfall as compared with the number of days on which rain prevailed — Aberdeen having considerably more days of rain than Greenock, and yet the fall was less than half. The rainfall at three of the stations in or

around Paisley and at Greenock for the last ten years was, in inches, as follows :—

	Ferguslie. 88 ft. above sea level.	PAISLEY. Stanely. 190 ft. above sea level.	Thornley Dam. 646 ft. above sea level.	GREENOCK Station. 64 ft. above sea level.
1859, ...	53	45	60	68
1860, ...	42	29	48	59
1861, ...	66	53	63	68
1862, ...	61	57	(no return)	74
1863, ...	55	52	61	75
1864, (no return)	...	39	46	55
1865, ...	34	56	38	49
1866, ...	49	54	61	73
1867, ...	39	46	52	62
1868, ...	56	60	57	77
1869, ...	45	38	48	64

The number of days on which rain fell increased from the equator to the poles, but the quantity of rain increased from the poles to the equator. It was found also that high and abrupt hills had a tendency to increase the rainfall. In the Khassia hills, in Hindostan, where the hills rise abruptly to a great elevation, with nothing between them and the seacoast but a flat, marshy district, the annual rainfall was 600 inches ; while 20 miles further inland the amount was only 200 inches, and at 30 miles it was reduced to 100 inches. A variable temperature and shifting winds were always found to be productive of rain."

The unprecedented occurrence of a smart shock of earthquake took place in Paisley and neighbourhood at eleven o'clock on the evening of Monday, 24th October, 1836. It is thus minutely described in the *Paisley Advertiser* newspaper of that time :—" The most general impression excited was that a heavy body had fallen to the floor or to the ground. Many compared it to a person falling from a bed, others to a sack of meal falling from a man's shoulder to the floor, or to the falling of a heavy bale of merchandise. Great numbers were awakened by it from their sleep, sprung from their beds, and searched the house, in the belief that they had been attacked by robbers. Some females were so much terrified that they would not again venture to bed. Several people connected with public works ran out to see whether their stalk vents had fallen to the ground. At the canal office it was felt with great force, not by the clerk only, who was at his desk, but the watch-dog, who sprang to his feet and began to bark, as if the work-house had been attacked. The bells in several houses were put in motion, and the windows, doors, and earthenware were shaken with considerable noise. A letter from one of the persons in charge of the dredge-boat lying off Elderslie House describes it as feeling like a smart, heavy blow struck on the mooring chains. Earthquakes being so seldom felt here, the noise and motion were ascribed to

almost every cause but the true one ; and it was not until next day, when the conversation relating to it became general, and when the effects of it were found so widely spread, that an earthquake was deemed the cause. Several, however, who in distant lands had witnessed such a phenomenon, at once recognised it. One young lady in town, born in the East Indies, the moment she felt it, exclaimed, 'An earthquake!' sprang from her bed, and fled for shelter to the apartment of the servants. We have not learned that the shock was felt at Neilston or in any other place to the southward or south-west of Paisley, nor does it seem to have been felt at Glasgow. We have heard of the shock being felt in Houston, Kilbarchan, and Johnstone to the west, and as far as Stonehouse in Lanarkshire to the south-east. In the parishes of Renfrew, Inchinnan, Erskine, and Old Kilpatrick, the shock was felt in a still higher degree than in Paisley. One gentleman near Bishopton was wakened out of his sleep by the noise, which he compared to the firing of heavy artillery, and his first impression was that the house was tumbling about his ears. A lady near the same place was so much alarmed that she nearly fainted, and another who was lying ill trembled from head to foot, in the belief that the last day was at hand. At Freeland House, Erskine, the inhabitants were much alarmed, and state that the cattle around the house were seen in a state of agitation. The tollman on the Greenock Road was wakened by the noise, and believing that the lead had been stripped from the roof and thrown to the ground, he seized the tongs and ran out, exclaiming, 'I'll catch them ; they cannot be far away !' On both sides of Clyde the shock was pretty severe. The bells of Blythwood House were set a-ringing. With the exception of the breaking of a little crockery, we have heard of no damage being done."

The longest continuance of severe frost within the last fifty years was in the beginning of 1838. It commenced about the tenth of January, and prevailed without interruption for about eight weeks. All the still and flowing waters were completely frozen up, and curlers had every opportunity for indulging in their favourite amusement. The Stanely reservoirs, which had been finished and filled with water before winter commenced, were covered with ice. The larger of the two reservoirs, extending to upwards of thirty-five acres, had been frozen over at a time when the water was perfectly calm, and presented a surface as smooth as glass. Very little water was flowing into the reservoir, and as the using of it by the inhabitants had not commenced, there was none flowing out. The ice, therefore, was quite solid. Besides the many curlers, skaters, and sliders on this extensive and magnificent sheet of ice, it was visited by immense numbers of people, both old and young, thus rendering the wintry scene, day after day, a most enjoyable one. From the long continuance of the severe frost, the Rivers Clyde, White Cart, and Black Cart became so firmly icebound that skaters amused themselves by travelling on the ice between Paisley, Linwood, and Glasgow. As the ferry boat at Renfrew was stopped, the traffic

was carried on in carts and other vehicles over the ice there. One of the finest sights caused by the severity of the frost was at the Gushing Linn, "the warlock craigie," to the south of Glenfield, where the Espedair Burn falls over a perpendicular ridge of the Gleniffer range of hills, and has formed in the long course of time a deep chasm on the side of the mountain for its passage to the plain beneath. The height of this fall is about fifty feet, and from the top to the bottom it was one mass of ice, all waved and twisted in the most fantastic forms conceivable. In addition to the main body of frozen ice in the centre of the waterfall, there were on both sides numerous substantial icicles under the projecting rocks, making it appear as if the projecting cliffs were supported by pillars of glass. No such frost had been experienced since 1814. In the middle of May, 1839, the weather, which had been for some weeks exceedingly agreeable, became rather cold, and on the morning of the 15th May hailstones of nearly half an inch thick fell in abundance. Then came several showers of snow, followed by sharp frost, and throughout the whole district there was an almost unbroken covering of snow. In the course of two or three days, however, the snow was melted by the strong rays of the sun. There had been no such fall of snow in summer since 1809. The greater part of the fruit crops was destroyed. On the morning of Saturday, 9th March, 1844, Paisley and surrounding district were visited by a storm of great violence, and considerable damage was done to the roofs of buildings. On the evening of the 8th July, 1847, a thunderstorm broke over the town. During that day the air was filled with electricity, and the sky became so fiery and dark as almost to turn day into night, when at length the overcharged clouds burst forth in all the terrific grandeur and awe-striking sublimity of a thunderstorm. During the storm, which continued only about half-an-hour, the lightning flashed almost incessantly and the rain fell in torrents. No damage, however, was done. But the most fearful and destructive hurricane of wind to which this town and district was subjected in this century was in February, 1856. The gale commenced between nine and ten o'clock on Wednesday evening, the 6th of that month, and acquired its greatest force between one and two o'clock the following morning. During the continuance of the hurricane, many slates and chimney-cans were blown down, and at daybreak the streets were greatly covered with these materials. The damage done to buildings throughout every part of the town was very great. Several buildings in connection with public works were thrown down, and many stacks of vents of dwelling-houses were overturned, thereby causing much loss. Upwards of twelve chimney stalks connected with public works were destroyed by the hurricane, and several of them in their descent demolished the adjoining buildings. The excessive force of the hurricane on that eventful night will be best understood when we state that the sheet-lead, measuring thirty feet in length by forty feet in breadth, and weighing two and a-half tons, was lifted from the flat roof of St. George's Church and carried by

the wind to Messrs. Brown, Sharp, & Tyars' warehouse, a distance of fully thirty yards, where it penetrated the roof and destroyed two windows. The thatched roofs also of a great number of houses in all parts of the town were much damaged. Amongst the hundreds of smaller casualties in the town were the overturning of a boat laden with charcoal at the quay, the partial unroofing of some cottages on Renfrew Road, the throwing down of part of the wall at Greenlaw Nursery and a wall at the Abbey gardens. Many trees in the neighbourhood that had successfully battled with previous blasts were either uprooted or broken. No persons fortunately met with any serious injuries. Altogether, it was estimated that it would take upwards of £10,000 to repair the damage done in Paisley alone. But there was one piece of destruction accomplished by the violent gale which admitted neither of replacement nor repair at any cost. We mean the uprooting of the ancient and revered Wallace Oak, which had stood for centuries as a landmark at Elderslie, two miles from Paisley Cross. This celebrated tree stood near the west end of the village of Elderslie, and close to the north side of the public highway. Tradition asserts that the branches at one time were so large as to be able to conceal not only Wallace but 300 of his followers also from the enemy, who were pursuing them. In the year 1825 the trunk measured twenty-one feet in circumference at the ground, and thirteen feet two inches at five feet from the ground. It was 67 feet high, and the branches extended 45 feet towards the east, 36 feet west, 30 feet south, and 25 feet north, covering in all nineteen poles of ground. Previous to that time, and afterwards, the dimensions of the tree suffered greatly through natural decay, but mainly through the cutting of branches by people anxious to preserve a memento of the great patriot-hero.

Comets, as is well known, have frequently by their appearance startled mankind; some of them have been of great magnitude. The year 1858 was distinguished by the apparition of a comet of extraordinary size and splendour. It was discovered by Dr. Donati, Astronomer at the Museum of Florence, on the 2nd of June in that year. Previous to this date there was no knowledge of its existence, and its appearance without the usual prediction of astronomers made it the more striking. It first became visible to the naked eye about the 5th of September; it attained its greatest brilliancy about the 10th of October following, and it disappeared about the beginning of November. Astronomers estimated that the length of the tail of this comet was 51,000,000 miles, that it was 1,000,000 miles distant from our globe at the nearest point of its orbit, and that it travelled at the rate of about 20,000 miles per minute. While it remained a conspicuous object and flew with such velocity across the heavens, it was looked up to, we believe, by every one in Paisley with admiration and awe.

There was also a storm of considerable violence on 6th November, 1872, and damage was done to several buildings in the town. A building in course of erection in Stevenson Street, and a number of

walls in various quarters of the town, were partly blown down. Roofs of houses were also injured, and many large trees were uprooted. In the Cemetery, several memorial stones were overturned. On the evening of the 28th December, 1879, when the Tay Railway Bridge along with the passenger train were blown into the Firth and 75 passengers drowned, the storm was very severely felt in this district also, and considerable damage was done in many ways.

The industries commenced prior to this century have continued in active operation. Nearly all of them have been greatly extended, and new industries of considerable importance have been introduced. It may have been observed that the weaving trade has been subjected to many serious and distressing depressions during the present century, and it is not to be wondered at, therefore, that for many years it has ceased to be the staple industry of the town. At the beginning of the present century the manufacture of shawls was gradually introduced, and soon afterwards it became the most important branch in the weaving trade. The introduction of the manufacture of the "Paisley shawl" was the result of the French and British expeditions to Egypt at the end of last century. The officers sent presents of eastern shawls to their lady friends at home, and the first imitations of Turkish and Indian goods were made in Paisley and Edinburgh. We shall not attempt, however, to describe the various styles produced by the Paisley manufacturers from time to time to meet the different fashions that prevailed, but must refer the reader to the interesting work by Mr. William Cross, Glasgow, a native of Paisley.¹

From about the year 1820 down to the commencement of the trade depression in 1841 there were upwards of 7000 hand-loom, and at the end of 1882 there were only 953.² About the middle of the present century, the printing of shawls in imitation of the harness shawl was carried on to a great extent, but it has been abandoned for many years. From about 1867 to 1873 a very considerable trade was done in what were called Ottoman stripe shawls. Since that period a new branch of trade has arisen in the manufacture of tapestry of beautiful workmanship and artistic design. Tapestry curtains may be divided into three qualities — first, those made of the lowest class of cotton; second, those made of cotton, noil silk, wool, worsted, jute, and linen; and, third, those made of rich silks.

Although the weaving trade has greatly declined during the last half century, the opposite process has been exemplified in the making

¹ Descriptive Sketch of Changes in the Style of Paisley Shawls, being the substance of a Lecture delivered by Mr. William Cross, manufacturer, Glasgow, in the hall of the Free Library and Museum.—J. & J. Cook, January, 1872.

² There were in Paisley in 1882, 69 weavers over 70 years of age; over 60, 192; over 50, 234; over 40, 211; over 30, 127; over 20, 52; below 20, 10; females, 7; no age given, 51—making in all 953 (*Glasgow News*, 31st October, 1882).

of sewing thread, which is now the most extensive and flourishing industry in Paisley. There are several works of this kind in the town, but the most important are the Anchor Thread Works at Seedhills, belonging to the Messrs. Clark, and the Ferguslie Thread Works, belonging to the Messrs. Coats. The former, when in full operation, employ upwards of 2500 persons, the great proportion of these being females. There are upwards of 2000 persons employed at the latter works, and they are also nearly all females.

We cannot undertake to notice in detail all the other important branches of industry carried on in the town, which add so greatly to its wealth and importance. We gave a list taken from the Poll Tax Roll, of 1695, of those then engaged in business in Paisley, and we now supply a somewhat similar list taken from the Paisley Directory of 1883-84 :—

Accountants,	17	Coffee Houses and Hotels (Tem-	
Agents and Commission Agents, ..	33	perance),	11
Aerated Water Manufacturers,	6	Contractors,	23
Architects and Surveyors,	6	Coopers,	6
Auctioneers and Appraisers,	4	Corkcutters,	4
Bakers,	47	Corn Flour Manufacturers,	9
Banks,	7	Cowfeeders,	68
Beltmakers,	2	Curled Hair Manufacturer,	1
Billposters,	2	Decorator,	1
Blacking Manufacturers,	2	Distillers,	2
Bleachers, Shawl Washers, Scourers, etc.,	18	Drapers and Silk Mercers,	60
Bookbinders,	4	Dressmakers and Milliners,	91
Booksellers and Stationers,	30	Druggists and Chemists,	24
Boot and Shoemakers,	55	Drysalter,	7
Brassfounders,	5	Dyers,	29
Brewery,	1	Eatinghouse Keepers,	5
Brickmakers and Brickbuilders, ..	8	Elastic Belt Manufacturer,	1
Brokers,	8	Electro-Plater,	1
Brush, Basket, Comb, Toy, and Fancy Goods Warehouses,	9	Embroiderers,	2
Buckram Manufacturers,	2	Engineers and Machine Makers, ..	18
Cabinetmakers,	17	Fancy Boxmakers,	4
Calenderers and Finishers,	17	Fire-Clay Manufacturers,	2
Calico and Shawl Printers,	3	Fishmongers and Poulterers,	8
Candlemakers,	4	Fleishers,	48
Card and Print Cutters,	7	Funeral Undertakers,	9
Carpet Manufacturers,	18	Furnished Lodging-House Keepers, ..	3
Carters,	3	Furnishers,	15
Carvers and Gilders,	12	Furniture Dealers,	8
Chemical Works,	3	Gardeners,	33
Chimney Sweepers,	19	Glass Show-Case Maker,	1
China and Crystal Merchants,	1	Glaziers,	6
Chiropodist,	34	Grain Merchants,	12
Clergymen of various denominations, Cloth Merchants and Agents for ditto,	2	Greengrocers,	28
Cloth Merchants and Woollen Drapers,	7	Grocers and Victuallers (25 of these are Spirit Dealers also),	195
Coach and Van Builders, ..	4	Hairdressers, ..	14
Coach Hirers,	7	Hamcurers,	11
Coal Merchants and Dealers,	36	Hatters,	9
Confectioners and Fruiterers,	120	Hosiers,	11
		Hothouse Builder,	1
		House Factors,	14
		Inn and Hotel Keepers,	4
		Iron Founders,	7

Iron Merchants,	3	Potato Merchants,	7
Ironmongers,	19	Potter,	1
Jacquard Machine Makers,	2	Power-Loom Cloth Manufacturers,	3
Ladies' Nurses,	2	Preserve Manufacturers,	3
Lathsplitters,	2	Purveyors,	4
Leather Merchants,	3	Ropespinners,	7
Letterpress Printers,	13	Saddlers and Harness Makers,	3
Lime and Cement Merchants,	2	Sculptors,	5
Lithographers and Engravers,	11	Seed Merchants,	3
Manufacturers,	54	Shawl and Muslin Cutters,	2
Maker of Bowling-Green Bowls,	1	Sheriff Officers,	2
Makers of Brooms, etc.,	2	Shipbuilders,	4
Machinery Belting Makers,	2	Shipping Agents,	2
Manufacturer of Metal Name Plates, etc.,	1	Slaters,	12
Manufacturer of Non-Conducting Composition, etc.,	1	Soap Merchants,	7
Manufacturer of Sanitary and Plumbers' Earthenware,	1	Smiths (7 of these are Farriers),	25
Manufacturer of Drain Pipes and Tiles for Field Drainage,	1	Starch Manufacturers,	8
Manufacturers of Stationery,	5	Surgeon Dentists,	5
Masons and Builders,	15	Tailors and Clothiers (18 of these are Tailors only),	52
Measurers,	4	Tanners,	2
Medical Practitioners,	18	Teachers,	151
Messenger-at-Arms,	1	Teachers of Dancing,	2
Metal Refiner,	1	Teacher of Drawing,	1
Midwives,	5	Teachers of Music,	13
Mill Furnishers,	2	Thread Manufacturers,	8
Millers,	3	Tobacconists (3 of these are manufacturers),	26
Nurserymen and Florists,	7	Tobacco Pipe Manufacturer,	1
Oil and Glycerine Makers,	3	Umbrella Manufacturers,	4
Packing Box Makers,	2	Upholsterers,	15
Painters and Paperhangers,	21	Valuators,	5
Paper Rulers,	3	Veterinary Surgeons,	4
Pattern Drawers,	3	Warpers,	5
Pavement Merchant,	1	Waste Merchants,	15
Pawnbrokers,	11	Watch and Clock Makers and Jewellers,	20
Pianoforte Tuners,	2	Weavers' Furnishers,	8
Photographers,	6	Wine and Spirit Merchants,	193
Plasterers,	6	Wood Merchants,	15
Plumbago Crucible Manufacturer,	1	Wood Turners,	3
Plumbers, Tinsmiths, and Copper-smiths,	23	Wrights and Joiners,	44
		Writers,	22
		Yarn and Silk Merchants,	12

It is extremely interesting to note the great and continuous increase of business in the Paisley Post Office during the present century. Frequently commercial men in Paisley had considerable difficulty in getting the Government to conduct the Post Office affairs in a proper manner. For a considerable period prior to 1814, letters between Glasgow, Paisley, and Greenock, were conveyed by a royal mail-coach. But in that year this was, for economical reasons, discontinued, and in its place the mail-bags were conveyed in a very miserable and insecure fashion — viz., by a boy on horseback. Strong remonstrances were forwarded by the Provost and Magistrates, merchants, manufacturers, bankers, and traders in the town of Paisley, to the Postmaster-General, pointing out that the property, in bills and money, which passed between Glasgow,

Paisley, and Greenock, was of immense amount, and showing how hazardous it was to carry it in so insecure a manner. At that time letters from London for these towns were first of all sent to Glasgow, and there made up into bags, and the memorialists insisted that the letters should at the same time be put into separate bags in London. These well-founded grievances were after a time removed.

Another matter which the people of Paisley complained of ten years afterwards, was the insufficient accommodation in the Post Office, and the small remuneration given to the postmaster. The memorialists stated that the annual revenue of Paisley Post Office at that time (1824) was £3500, and that the postmaster had only a yearly salary of £60, with an allowance of £25 for a clerk. They further stated that "the very small apartment appropriated for that business, enters from a stationery shop kept by the postmaster, having a letter-box and wicket in its only window, and another wicket in the partition wall which divides it from the shop. The street in which it is situated is a narrow and much-frequented thoroughfare, which is apt to be crowded and obstructed by those who await the delivery of letters on the arrival of the posts; and there is no place at hand capable of affording shelter from rain. The access to the wicket within the shop is between the counter and the wall, a space so small that a very few individuals completely fill it, and so narrow as with difficulty to enable one person to pass another." The Post Office at this time, and during a considerable part of the previous century, was the little shop which is at present No. 43 Moss Street. In 1829 it was removed to No. 5 Christie Terrace, and seven years afterwards to Gilmour Street, where it continued till Government erected the present Post Office Buildings in St. Mirin Street. These were opened on 29th July, 1876.

We have already indicated the amount of business done in the Paisley Post Office in the last century. In 1837 the total number of letters received weekly at the Post Office was about 4000. There were then also only two letter deliverers in the town, and one penny extra was charged for the delivery of letters beyond six hundred yards from the Post Office. At that time the postage of letters was charged according to distance, weight, and number of enclosures. From Paisley to Glasgow the lowest postage charge was 4d.; to Edinburgh, 8½d.; to Liverpool and Manchester, 11½d.; to London, 1s. 2½d.; to Ireland, 1s. 3½d.; and to America, 2s. 7½d. These charges were doubled when letters contained one enclosure. Before the immense boon conferred on the country by the system of penny postages came into operation on 10th January, 1840, the legislature was frequently petitioned on the subject. On 28th March, 1839, the Town Council of Paisley agreed to petition both Houses of Parliament "for a uniform penny post"; and on 9th July following, they agreed to petition Parliament to the same effect.

Mr. Wallace, M.P. for Greenock, took an active part in advocating this great change in the postage; possibly ranking second only to Rowland Hill himself. Mr. Wallace's great services in con-

nection with the penny postage were universally appreciated. He received the freedom of the following cities or towns—Glasgow, Aberdeen, Paisley, Perth, Dingwall, Inverness, and Dornock. He was presented with an address by the inhabitants of Kilmarnock, and a communication from the Postmaster-General of France complimenting him on the reforms he had effected in the Post Office. There were besides numerous compliments and addresses from other quarters. Mr. Wallace represented Greenock in Parliament from 1833 to 1845. Having suffered certain reverses of fortune, a movement in 1850 was made to raise a public testimonial for him. This realised nearly £4000, which was invested in the purchase of an annuity of £500. He died at his residence, Seafield Cottage, near Greenock, on 1st April, 1855, in the eighty-first year of his age. A public monument of elegant design, thirty-five feet high, was erected over his grave in the Greenock cemetery.

The increase of letters in Paisley Post Office, after the introduction of the penny postage, was instantaneous and rapid. In 1854 the number of letters received weekly in the Post Office rose to 9800, and in 1883 57,000 letters were received weekly. The number of letter-deliverers now employed is twenty-five. The transmission of telegraph messages has also greatly increased since the transfer of that business to the Post Office in 1868. During the first year the number of messages^a was 14,000, and during 1883 they amounted to 57,000. For a considerable time past the number of letters received at the Post Office, Paisley, on St. Valentine's Day (14th February), has been decreasing year by year. While that has been gradually going on, the Christmas cards, on the other hand, received at the Post Office, have been increasing in a marvellous manner. On St. Valentine's Day in 1860, the number of letters of all kinds received was 3700, and in 1883 the number was 8700, being only an increase of 5000. At Christmas in 1860, the number of letters of all kinds was only 2800; while at Christmas in 1883, they extended to the immense number of 58,000, showing an increase of 55,200. On 1st August, 1883, the parcel post was established.

The population of the town during this century will be best shown by a statement of the census returns at the different decades:—

		Town.		Abbey.		Total.
1801,	...	17,026	...	14,153	...	31,179
1811,	...	19,937	...	16,785	...	36,722
1821,	...	26,428	...	20,575	...	47,003
1831,	...	31,460	...	26,006	...	57,466

Prior to 1831 the population of the Abbey Parish within the Paisley Police bounds was not ascertained separately from the rest of the parish; but in 1831 the numbers were separated, and the population stood thus—In the Burgh, 31,460; and in the Abbey, 14,739; being in all, 46,199. According to the census returns of 1801, 1811, and 1821, the population of Paisley was the third

highest of the towns in Scotland, Edinburgh and Glasgow alone being higher; but in 1831 the census returns showed that Aberdeen had 553 more inhabitants than Paisley. In 1834 the population within the Parliamentary boundary was 46,191; in 1841, 48,416; in 1851, 47,951. Thus 1851 showed a decrease of 465 in population as compared with 1841. This, however, should not be wondered at. The census of 1841 was taken before the commencement of the distress of that period. The severe depression of trade continued so long, that many of the best artizans, with their families, were forced to remove to other parts of the country to find employment, and many more to emigrate to the Australian Colonies or to America. The mortality in the town was also increased by the fever that prevailed in 1847, and by the cholera in 1849. The comparison of the following details in the enumeration of 1841 and 1851 is interesting:—

	1851.	1841.
Number of persons to each family,	4'6	4'7
Total males,	22,458	22,294
Total females,	25,493	26,122

Proportion per cent. to the Population—

Scotch,	87'15	88'43
Irish,	11'34	10'58
English,	1'25	0'91
Colonial, Foreign, and Unknown,	0'26	0'08

100 100

The Scotch element thus decreased 1'28 in 1851, while the Irish increased 0'76 per cent., the English 0'34 per cent., and other nationalities 0'18. The relative proportion of males and females was also changed — there being in 1851, 164 more males and 638 fewer females than in 1841.

Population according to places of Nativity—

	Scotland.	England.	Ireland.	Colonies.	Unknown.	Total.
In 1851, ...	41,787	602	5439	52	71	47,951
„ 1841, ...	42,813	439	5124	(40)	—	48,416

Ages—

Under	1 year,	...	...	...	...	1548
1 year and under	5 years,	...	...	...	...	4656
5 „ „	10 „	...	...	...	...	5609
10 „ „	15 „	...	...	...	...	5281
15 „ „	20 „	...	...	...	...	5073
20 „ „	30 „	...	...	...	...	8732
30 „ „	40 „	...	...	...	...	5977
40 „ „	50 „	...	...	...	...	4777
50 „ „	60 „	...	...	...	...	3128
60 „ „	70 „	...	...	...	...	1955
70 „ „	80 „	...	...	...	...	899
80 „ „	90 „	...	...	...	...	188
90 „ „	95 „	...	...	...	...	14
95 „ „	100 „	...	...	...	...	5
Unknown, ...	...	...	...	...	...	19

47,951

Number of Buildings —

	1861.	1851.
Inhabited,	2688	2691
Uninhabited,	58	48
Building,	7	3

The greatest age returned was that of a female who was in her 100th year on 31st March, 1851.

Deaf and Dumb and Blind Persons —

Deaf and Dumb, ...	Male, 16.	Female, 16—Total, 32.
Blind,	Male, 33.	Female, 22—Total, 55.

In 1861 the population was 47,427; in 1871 the population was 48,257. This shows since 1861 an increase of 830; but there was a decrease in the military of 85 and in prison inmates of 31, so that the increase in the inhabitants may be said to have been 946. During the ten years ending 1871 the births exceeded the deaths by 4648, and this shows that large numbers had left the town to seek employment elsewhere. In 1861 there were 2536 occupied looms, while in 1871 there were 1551—being a decrease of 985. The family average in 1861 was 4·5, and in 1871 it was 4·7. The census of 1871 showed that there were 25,993 females and 22,264 males. That is, there were 116·8 females for every 100 males, or nearly 17 per cent. more women than men. In 1861 the excess was 16·4 per cent. It is not difficult to discover the cause of this disparity in the numbers of the sexes, the demand for well paid female labour in the mills and manufactories in the town being so great.

The children attending school in 1871 between the ages of five and thirteen was 6658, while the gross number of children between these ages was 8880. In 1861 the total number of children between five and fifteen years of age was 10,478, while the number returned as attending school was 5982.

The number of houses or tenements and windowed rooms in 1871 and 1861 were as follows:—Tenements in 1871 inhabited, 2622; uninhabited, 36; building, 17. In 1861, tenements inhabited, 2677; uninhabited, 50; building, 3. Windowed rooms, 22,702; and in 1861, 21,749. It appears from the foregoing that while the number of tenements has decreased 551, the number of windowed rooms has increased 953. At the census of 1861, Paisley had the smallest number of rooms in proportion to the population of any of the eight principal towns in Scotland.

According to the Government census return for 1881, the population was 56,642—being an increase of 7330 upon that of 1871. The following is a statement showing the population in the different parishes within the Parliamentary boundary, for 1871 and 1881, along with the increase in each:—

High Parish, in 1881,	17,875.	
Do., in 1871,	15,484.	
	————	Increase, 2,391.

Middle Parish, in 1881,	13,123.		
Do., in 1871,	9,723.		
		Increase,	3,400.
Low Parish, in 1881,	7,090.		
Do., in 1871,	6,702.		
		Increase,	388.
Abbey Parish, in 1881,	17,468.		
Do., in 1871,	16,318.		
		Increase,	1,150.
Renfrew Parish, in 1881,	31.		
Do., in 1871,	30.		
		Increase,	1.
<hr/>			
Total increase,	...	...	7,330.

Burgh of Paisley Parliamentary and Municipal Register of Voters,
1883-4 :—

	1882-3.	1883-4.	Female Voters. 1882-3.	1883-4.
First Ward,	914	986	217	210
Second Ward,	1152	1192	291	288
Third Ward,	1030	1115	222	231
Fourth Ward,	1355	1406	205	205
Fifth Ward,	906	979	181	179
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5357	5678	1116	1113

5590 persons are disqualified through non-payment of poor-rates, or being exempted on the ground of poverty.

The annual rental of property in the town has increased very greatly during the last half-century. In 1861, it was £98,006 ; in 1871, £119,599 ; in 1877, £173,452 ; in 1879, £199,952 ; in 1881, £206,334 ; and in 1882-3, as estimated in detail by Mr. Nisbet, surveyor of taxes, as follows :—

PARISH.	DWELLING-HOUSES.				SHOPS, WARE- HOUSES, MILLS, &c.		Annual Value of Lands.	Annual Value of Railways Canals, &c.	Total Annual Value, 1882-83.
	Occupied.		Unoccupied.		Occupied.	Un- occupied.			
	No.	Annual Value.	No.	Annual Value.	Annual Value.	Annual Value.			
Abbey,.....	772	£33,642	87	£665	£27,708	£1029	£5168	...	£68,212
Middle,.....	3698	23,575	70	579	27,417	987	919	...	53,477
High,.....	5976	32,658	109	897	21,846	554	247	...	56,202
Low,.....	1573	12,693	44	306	18,258	846	69	...	32,172
Renfrew, ...	4	92	1	20	...	...	87	...	199
RAILWAYS,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£6907	6907
TOTAL, 1882-83	12,023	£102,660	311	£2467	£95,229	£3416	£6490	£6907	£217,169

In the last half of the present century the Town Council, as had been the custom for a considerable time, created only a very few honorary Burgesses.¹ On 11th September, 1860, they agreed to present the freedom of the Burgh to Lord Brougham, in consideration of His Lordship's high position as a philosopher, an orator, and a statesman. At that time Lord Brougham was expected in Glasgow to preside over the deliberations of the National Association for the promotion of Social Science. His Lordship accepted the invitation, and in consequence of numerous applications from all classes of the community to be present at the ceremony, the Council agreed that the presentation should take place in St. George's Church, on 27th September, 1860. On that occasion the church was crowded with an attentive and fashionable audience, and Provost Pollock, after an appropriate speech, delivered to Lord Brougham the document conveying the freedom of the burgh enclosed in a gold box. His Lordship, who was then in his 83rd year, expressed, not in the firm language of the eloquent Henry Brougham of former times, but in the feeble voice of an old frail man, the gratification he felt in receiving the freedom of the Burgh, and as youngest burgess acknowledged the high honour conferred upon him by the Town Council.

On the afternoon of this day the Social Science Congress, which had been holding its annual meetings in Glasgow, had a banquet in the City Hall, and Lord Brougham presided. In replying to the toast of his Lordship's health, proposed by Sir John Pakington, he, among other things, said:—"I have canvassed in all directions in the most populous districts, under the most varied circumstances, of the great County of York, which I represented for a short time; I have canvassed in smaller counties of an agricultural character; but in all these canvasses I never have received, even where I was called most popular,—in all of them put together,—the reception which I met in Glasgow, and even in the suburb of Paisley, this morning" (*Glasgow Herald*, 29th September, 1860). In a paragraph that appeared in the *Glasgow Herald* of 2nd October following, it is stated that when Lord Brougham's attention was, during the banquet, drawn to this matter of calling Paisley a suburb of Glasgow, "he at once saw and acknowledged the error which he had inadvertently committed, and promised to correct it; but unfortunately having shortly afterwards transmogrified himself into an old woman, he forgot all about it." The same paragraph

¹ 1846, 9 and 10 Victoria, chap. 17. The exclusive privileges of trading existing and enforced in the Royal and other Burghs of Scotland, were abolished in this year by Parliament enacting that "all such exclusive privileges and rights shall cease, and it shall be lawful for any person to carry on or deal in merchandise, and to carry on and exercise any trade or handicraft in any Burgh, or a Guild brother or a member of any Guild, Craft, or Incorporation." By the passing of this Act, the revenue of the Corporation suffered to the amount of from £100 to £150 annually, this being the sum they received as entry-money from new burgesses. This offensive tax was exacted from every one who commenced business within the Burgh, and was always strongly objected to, and was with great difficulty collected by the Town Chamberlain.

concludes by saying — “he has since made the *amende honourable* to Paisley, and thereby satisfied the good people of the city in the west.” At the banquet, and immediately afterwards, many gibes and facetious remarks were made by the Glaswegians at the expense of the people of Paisley. It was a thoughtless mistake on the part of the old man, and should, out of good feeling towards Lord Brougham, have been overlooked at the time ; but though occurring twenty-four years ago, it has not been allowed to pass into oblivion. To the present day, when anyone mentions something favourable about Paisley in the presence of an inhabitant of Glasgow, it is often the case that the retort is made — “but Paisley is a suburb of Glasgow ; Lord Brougham said so.” Even the conductors of the most respectable Glasgow newspapers have all along, during these twenty-four years, permitted the writers of leading articles and their correspondents to use the false, offensive, and impertinent statement, that Paisley is a suburb of Glasgow, to be continued, though its history is as ancient as that of its larger rival, and its independence, both as an old ecclesiastical centre and in respect of distinctive manufactures, has always been most marked.

The next to receive from the Town Council the freedom of the burgh was Mr. Duncan Wright, to whom we have already referred as one of the benefactors of Paisley. The ceremony took place in the County Hall ; and the certificate of the freedom of the burgh, which was presented to him by Provost Murray, after an eloquent address, was enclosed in a silver box, and was given in testimony of public appreciation of his generous and munificent endowment of school and college bursaries for the education of deserving boys and young men born within the Burgh or Abbey Parish of Paisley, whose parents are unable to give them a suitable education. Mr. Wright, in suitable terms, cordially thanked the Council for the honour conferred on him in admitting him a burgess of the burgh, and for the very gratifying manner in which the presentation had been made.

On 11th September, 1877, the Council agreed to ask General Grant, late President of the United States (who was travelling in Scotland at that time), to visit Paisley, and accept of the freedom of the burgh. He replied, expressing his thanks for the honour offered him by the Council, but stating that he had already made so many engagements that it was out of his power to avail himself of their courtesy.

In December, 1882, the Council solicited Mr. Gladstone, as he was about to come to Scotland, to accept the freedom of the burgh ; but he declined, as his engagements disabled him from adding any other to his Midlothian visit.

On 1st November, 1883, the Council agreed to admit the Right Hon. Sir Charles Wentworth Dilke, Bart., M.P., President of the Local Government Board for England, to be burgess and freeman of the Burgh of Paisley, in recognition of his high character as a statesman, his eminent literary qualities, and the important services

rendered by him to the state in reforming abuses and advancing the interests of trade, especially between this country and France.

On the 9th of the same month, the Council admitted the Right Hon. Sir Richard Cross, G.C.B., D.C.L., M.P., to be a burgess and freeman of the Burgh of Paisley, in recognition of his high character and eminent abilities as a statesman, and of the important services rendered to the country as Secretary of State for the Home Department.

These honours were conferred on these two gentlemen, in the presence of large and fashionable audiences.

A body of gentlemen, thirty-nine in number, established, on 26th December, 1757, "The Paisley Society for the Reformation of Manners," on somewhat the same lines as similar institutions which had been formed in London and other places. The introduction to the rules of the society stated that the members, "being deeply sensible that sin is dishonouring to God, and pernicious to every valuable interest of society and souls, and observing with grief its power and progression in this town, do therefore cordially associate, with determined purpose, to prosecute the vicious of every character, be they blasphemers, swearers, Sabbath-breakers, drunkards, thieves, idle, &c., and by every possible and legal method to have such offenders brought to condign punishment." According to the rules of the society, the entry-money of the members was 5s.; they were to meet quarterly, and oftener if necessary; they were to apply to the Magistrates for a place to meet in, if the Laigh Kirk Session-House was found inconvenient; the society was to receive donations; and the ministers in the town were to be asked to preach a sermon annually on the subject of reformation of manners, on the first Tuesday of January, and contributions were to be made on these occasions for promoting the purposes of the society. The series of sermons was commenced in 1758, and was continued without interruption till 1832, a period of seventy-five years. They were generally preached on the first day of January. The first sermon was by the Rev. James Bain, of the High Church, one of the principal leaders of the society, and the collection amounted to £5 15s. 2d. The collections generally were small,—the largest being £16 15s. 4½d., in 1812, when the Rev. Mr. M'Dermid preached. The next highest collection was £16 2s. 9½d., in the following year, when the Rev. Robert Burns officiated. The society may be considered as having aimed at the assisting of the Magistrates, both with their influence and their money, in the suppression of crime. The cases principally taken up by the society were—Sabbath desecration, disorderly houses, assaults, and thefts. As specimens, we shall give a few of these cases:—On 7th February, 1758, Catherine Morrison, residing in Townhead of Paisley, was accused of being generally guilty of staying at home from public worship on Sabbath days, and also of having been seen knitting stockings on Sabbath day. At the same time three weavers were charged with violently entering a

change-house, in Water Wynd, on the Saturday before communion, and of horrid swearing and abusive language. It is not stated whether convictions were obtained in these cases; but the Fiscal, who was always employed by the society to prosecute, was paid £2 for expenses. In January, 1762, two pieces of cloth were stolen from a bleachfield in Sneddon, and they were found in the house of James Alexander, formerly town's herd. To avoid being prosecuted, he voluntarily signed his sentence of banishment from the town, along with his wife. In 1772, the society induced the Magistrates to make public intimation through the town, by tuck of drum, prohibiting, under penalties of law, public swearing, rioting on the streets, and in houses after lawful hours; and offering a reward of sixpence, to be paid to any informer against a young person; and of one shilling to the informer against any grown-up person swearing publicly; the rewards to be paid by the society. In 1779, the society joined with the Magistrates and others in opposing the Popish Bill, and they agreed to pay their share of the expenses. In 1789, the society agreed to offer a reward of £5 5s. to any person who should discover the persons who attempted to set fire to the house of Mr. Samuel Walker, thread-maker in Sneddon. In many cases the society contributed money to prosecute persons charged with committing thefts, or resetting stolen goods; and in 1820 they subscribed £300 to assist in erecting the new Jail and Bridewell. When an attempt was made in January, 1821, as already stated, to shoot Mr. John Orr, the society offered twenty guineas to assist the public prosecutor in offering a reward for such information as might lead to the discovery and conviction of the persons who attempted his assassination. The society, however, did not prosper. For several years the new entrants fell off, as it was found that by the establishment of the Police force the services of the society had been in a great measure superseded. On 1st January, 1832, the last of the annual sermons was preached by the Rev. Dr. Burns, and the church-door collection amounted to £4 5s. An unsuccessful attempt was made in 1839 to resuscitate the society; and in 1848 three prizes were offered for the best essay on the advantages of Sabbath observance by the working classes. The competitors to belong to that class. The first prize of £5 was awarded to James Craig, stereotype founder. The essay was afterwards published in pamphlet form, with an introductory notice by the Rev. Dr. Symington, and consisted of thirty-six pages. The demand for the pamphlet was so considerable, that it reached a second edition. In 1851, the society subscribed £35 to the Industrial Schools, and a similar sum in the following year. In January, 1855, the society appointed a committee of their number to take such measures as they might see fit to aid the authorities in enforcing the new Public House Act (Forbes M'Kenzie's) against the sale of drink on the Sabbath day; and two years afterwards they paid £9 to the Procurator-Fiscal for his expenses in making such prosecutions. Before the society was dissolved in 1862, various proposals were made for the disposal of

its funds. They ultimately voted — at the last meeting, held on 2nd December, 1862 — £50 to the Paisley Society for Reclamation of Fallen Women; £20 to the Paisley Female Educational Society; £10 to the Tract Society; and £5 to the Paisley Temperance Society, to assist in providing a suitable place for refreshments at the Feeing Fair, to be held in the following February.

The civic authorities in Greenock at the end of the first half of this century manifested a strong ambition to have a Circuit Court of Justiciary in cases affecting Renfrewshire established in that town. This proposal was brought before the Town Council of Paisley on 18th June, 1849, by a letter from the Town-Clerk of Greenock. The Council, in reply, expressed their opinion as unfavourable to the project, but suggested that some arrangement might be made for classifying the cases tried at the Circuit Courts in Glasgow into districts, or that an additional Court should be held in Glasgow during the year. The Greenock Town Council were not, however, satisfied with the reply, and applied to the Lord Advocate to have their proposals carried into effect. The reason urged for desiring the proposed change was that a great hardship was entailed upon jurymen, witnesses, and others in being compelled to attend the Circuit Court at Glasgow. The Town Council of Paisley petitioned the Lord Advocate against the proposed change, and stated that by a better classification of cases before the Circuit Court at Glasgow much could be done to obviate the grievances complained of by jurymen and witnesses of being detained long in Glasgow. The Commissioners of Supply also, at their annual meeting held on 30th October, agreed by a great majority to petition against the establishment of Courts of Justiciary at Greenock. The Lord Advocate disapproving of the proposed change, or at least giving no encouragement to it, nothing further was done in the matter till thirteen years afterwards, when the Greenock authorities along with the Procurators in October, 1862, resumed their agitation of this subject. They submitted a proposal to Government to erect the four counties of Renfrew, Dumbarton, Argyle, and Bute, into a Justiciary District, which they alleged would be more convenient to those counties, and would conduce to the more speedy administration of justice than the system then existing. That proposal was afterwards abandoned in consequence of the Commissioners of the counties of Argyle and Dumbarton objecting to this scheme. A new proposal was submitted, viz. — to create Renfrewshire along with Buteshire alone into a Justiciary District, and to hold a Circuit Court at Greenock. The Town Council of Paisley on 2nd February, 1863, agreed to memorialise the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Lord Advocate against this new proposal. In this memorial they stated that the number of cases tried at Inverary from the County of Bute was, during the previous nine years, only eleven, though there had been eighteen courts held, and it was therefore of little importance to Buteshire where the Court was held ;

that Greenock was situated 30 miles from the eastmost parts of the County, and upwards of 20 miles from the most populous portion of it ; that, as regards facilities of communication, both Glasgow and Paisley were more convenient places than Greenock for a Circuit Court for Renfrewshire, should it be found necessary to make any change ; and that in the upper ward of the County there was a population of 122,000, while in the lower ward the population did not exceed 56,000. At a meeting of Council on 7th April following, a letter was read intimating that, as regarded the subject of a proposed re-arrangement of the Western Circuit of Scotland, Sir George Grey was of opinion that it was inexpedient to alter the existing arrangements. In October, 1867, the Corporation of Greenock and other parties in that town renewed their application to the Lord Advocate, the Sheriff of the County, and other officials, to establish a Circuit Court of Justiciary in Greenock, and to include Renfrewshire, Buteshire, and portions of Argyleshire and Dumbartonshire. The Council again agreed to oppose the application, as they were satisfied with the existing arrangements ; but said if a change were considered necessary, Paisley, from its central position, its ready communication with all parts of the County, and the great population resident in the upper ward as compared with the lower ward of the County, and not Greenock, should be the town selected. The Council memorialised the Government, repeating the arguments. The Commissioners of Supply also, at a meeting held on 28th November following, passed a series of seven resolutions strongly condemnatory of the proposed Circuit Court at Greenock. Among other reasons, they stated that the same proposal in 1863 was unanimously disapproved of, and since that time there had been no change of circumstances to call for a reconsideration of the subject. They held that Glasgow for Renfrewshire generally was the most suitable place in every respect in which to hold Circuit Courts ; “ but should Government resolve to establish a District Court for the County, this meeting is further of opinion that Paisley is the proper place for having such a Court.” The Government did not agree to the application, and the agitation on this subject has not been renewed. In 1868, the number of Justiciary Courts held in Glasgow was increased from three to six per annum, and this alteration has had the beneficial effect of causing the jurors to be detained for a much shorter period than formerly at the different Assizes.

In the period we are considering, Paisley celebrated the centenary of the birth of three distinguished poets—Burns, Scott, and Tannahill. That of Burns, whose memory had always been revered in Paisley as markedly as in any other place in the country, if not more so, was commemorated with intense enthusiasm by all classes in the community, on 29th January, 1859. The principal banquet on the occasion was held in the Exchange Rooms, where 270 gentlemen dined, and about a hundred ladies graced the gallery after dinner. There were two beautiful transparencies in the two

centre windows of the hall,—the one having a medallion portrait of the poet, and in the other was the genius of Coila crowning the bard, with a view of Tam O'Shanter crossing the Brig of Doon. Robert Brown, Provost of Paisley, occupied the chair; and the croupiers were Robert Kirkland, David Murray, J. J. Lamb, and William MacKean. The working classes had also a well-attended assemblage in the Abercorn Rooms,—Bailie Cochran in the chair. Besides these, there were no less than ten social parties. We are not, we think, overstating the matter, when we say that in Paisley, in proportion to the population, more people engaged in celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Burns than in any other town in the kingdom. The utmost enthusiasm prevailed at all these meetings, and they were remarkable for their unanimity of sentiment.

The centenary celebration of Sir Walter Scott took place at a banquet, held in the Coffee-Room, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 15th August, 1871. The room was decorated with the choicest plants and flowers from the green-houses and gardens of gentlemen in the town. Immediately behind the chairman's seat was placed a bust of Sir Walter Scott, and in the room was also displayed the bust of Professor Wilson (Christopher North). The meeting was graced by the presence of a number of ladies at the dinner-table—a most unusual circumstance in Paisley. Mr. David Murray, Provost of Paisley, occupied the chair; and the croupiers were Sir Peter Coats, Sheriff Cowan; Messrs. Robert Brown, Underwood Park; Stewart Clark, Oakshawside; and P. C. Macgregor of Brediland. Many able, eloquent, and appropriate speeches were delivered in proposing the different toasts. Another festival was held in the Abercorn Rooms, and was well attended. Bailie Cochran presided; and the croupiers were Messrs. John Jaap, John Robertson, Cowan Gibson, and Peter Stewart.

The celebration of the centenary of the birth of the illustrious Robert Tannahill, on 3rd June, 1874, by all classes of his townsmen, was as ardent as it was appropriate. The demonstration in honour of the memory of the bard consisted, first of all, of a procession to Gleniffer Braes, where some of his best songs were sung by a powerful choir, composed for the most part of male voices. The procession, which consisted of many of the different trades of the town, and others, assembled in St. James Street, and was marshalled by Superintendent Sutherland on horseback, accompanied by 150 horsemen. It went through different parts of the town; and in passing the birth-place of the poet in Castle Street, and the house in which he last resided in Queen Street, the processionists uncovered their heads. Numerous devices of flowers and evergreens, along with flags and mottoes, decorated the houses and streets along the line of march. The processionists and others assembled on the plateau of the Gleniffer hills, near the Gushing Linn, where a platform was erected. After a short address from Provost Murray, and a vote of thanks to Mr. Fulton for the use of the grounds, several of Tannahill's songs were sung by the choir

with delightful effect. The weather being particularly fine, the numerous assemblage, which was estimated at from fifteen to twenty thousand, had a grand opportunity of amusing themselves on the Braes, and of admiring the unequalled scenery which for miles stretches along the valley beneath. In the afternoon a hundred gentlemen dined in the Abercorn Rooms,—the Provost presiding; and in the evening there was a numerously-attended musical soiree in the Drill Hall,—Mr. Thomas Coats of Ferguslie in the chair. Several other agreeable social parties were held throughout the town, all with one object in view—the honouring of the memory of Tannahill.

After the stoppage of the *Paisley Advertiser* in 1850, already noticed, there was no newspaper published in Paisley for about three years. As a substitute, two Glasgow newspapers, the *Saturday Evening Post* and the *Reformers' Gazette*, published an afternoon edition with Paisley news, the former being conducted by Mr. James Henderson and the latter by Mr. John Parkhill. In 1853 it appears to have been discovered that there was a good opening for a newspaper in Paisley, and two were started advocating the same political views. The first number of the *Paisley Journal*, which was conducted by Mr. James Waterston, with whom was associated Mr. Robert Hay, was published on 28th May, 1853. The other newspaper was the *Paisley Herald*, which was owned and conducted by Mr. Richard Watson, and the first number appeared on 9th July in that year. They were both published weekly. The last copy of the *Journal* was published on 7th May, 1857. About two years before the *Journal* came to an end, the day of publication was changed from Saturday to Thursday. A year after this change, Mr. Waterston began on Saturdays the publication of the *Renfrewshire Independent*, the first number of which was issued on June 14, 1856. After the death of Mr. Waterston, on 18th January, 1863, the paper was acquired by Mr. John Miller, Barrhead, and by him it is still continued. Another weekly newspaper named the *Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette*, owned and conducted by Messrs. John and James Cook, was commenced on 29th October, 1864. On 1st May, 1869, a Liberal-Conservative newspaper was first published, called the *Paisley and Renfrewshire Standard*. This newspaper ceased to be published after 25th February, 1871; but on 4th March it reappeared under the title of the *Western Standard and Renfrewshire Observer*. This newspaper stopped on 30th August, 1879. On 1st September, 1874, a daily afternoon newspaper called the *Paisley Daily Express*, owned and conducted by Mr. W. A. Lochhead, was first published, and the price was only one halfpenny. Another evening newspaper, called the *Paisley Telegraph*, and owned and conducted by Messrs. J. & J. Cook, was commenced on 25th December, 1880; but it did not continue long, the last number being published on 15th April, 1881. Mr. Richard Watson, who commenced the *Paisley Herald*, died on 24th February, 1880, and the newspaper was continued till the end of 1883, when the

printing materials and copyright of the *Herald* were sold by public roup, and purchased by Mr. James Cook of the *Gazette* newspaper, Mr. John Cook having died on 25th October, 1882, aged 65 years. The *Gazette* thereafter continued under the name of the *Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette and Paisley Herald*. At present, the *Gazette* and the *Express* are the only papers published in Paisley.

Before the Cemetery grounds were formed in 1845, the only places for interments were the burying-grounds in connection with many of the places of worship in the town. They were all, however, far from being kept in a good and tasteful condition. But having been laid off without being intersected with roads and walks, they could scarcely be in other than a disorderly and unbecoming condition. The Paisley Cemetery, from the way in which the grounds are laid out and adorned with trees and evergreens, combined with its picturesque situation and the perfect way in which it is kept, is one of the most beautiful in the country. The shareholders' stock amounts to £7997 15s. 8d. The first interment in the Cemetery took place on 30th August, 1845. For many years the dividend received by the shareholders was small. But recently, the revenue has yielded a good return to the shareholders. The dividend or bonus to the shareholders in 1882-3 was 1s. 3d. per share of 11s., which is $11\frac{4}{11}$ per cent. per annum. During 1883 the company was registered as a limited company. The total income last year was £2532 4s. 7d., the largest ever received, and the expenditure was £1381 1s. 6d. The affairs of this company are managed by twelve directors, who have received an annual remuneration of £60 for several years. The total number of interments in the town during 1883 was 689 males and 701 females—in all, 1390; and the number in the Cemetery was 1238. The following table shows the mortality in Paisley for the five years ending 31st December, 1849, with the different places of interment:—

	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.
Cemetery,	6	149	816	615	726
Abbey,	340	434	499	336	330
Canal Street U.P.,	243	276	271	235	270
High,	230	225	164	136	150
Gaelic,	149	156	162	136	122
Oakshaw Street U.P.,	52	38	65	39	62
Low,	121	142	78	45	43
Abbey Close U.P.,	33	34	26	26	43
Reformed Presbyterian,	45	28	48	37	33
Thread Street U.P.,	12	9	13	6	8
Trinity Episcopal,	7	30	25	16	2
South,	9	1	...	3	2
Martyrs' (included in Cemetery after 1845),	21	...	...	...	...
	1268	1522	2167	1630	1791
Death-Rate per 1000 (Populn. 48,257),...	26	32	44	34	37

The reading-rooms in the town are now fewer in number than they were at many former periods. This may be accounted for by the small price at which newspapers can now be obtained. Besides the Coffee-Room at the Cross,¹ there is the West-End Reading-Room, instituted 1st February, 1850, at No. 84 Broomlands. There is now also the reading-room in the George A. Clark Town Hall; and a news room is attached to "The Club, Paisley," 102 High Street; the Beaconsfield Club, No. 95 High Street; and the Liberal Club, 11 Forbes Street.

The Paisley Athenæum was established in January, 1847; and when its rooms at the Cross were opened on 12th April following, there were 361 members; and by the end of that year the number had increased to 412. Besides the promoting of lectures and classes of different kinds, there were also the benefits offered by a good reading-room. The institution prospered for several years, but then the number of members fell off considerably, and the remainder joined the Coffee-Room.

The Paisley Artizans' Institution was founded in November, 1847. Its design was to provide lectures in chemistry, mechanics, and other departments of science and art, and there were besides a good reading-room and library. The institution was prosperous for many years, and the directors were successful for a long time in providing good courses of lectures in the Old Low Church, which were well attended. After a time the numbers began to fall off, and, from the want of sufficient support, it had, in 1881, to be given up. The rooms were next the Old Bridge on the south side of High Street.

The increase in the quantity of gas consumed in a manufacturing town such as Paisley is one of the surest proofs of its advancement and prosperity. We have already noticed this increase, and the statistics of the period under consideration are as follows; from these the increase appears quite marvellous:—

	Total Revenue.			Price of Gas per 1000 feet.	Number of Consumers.
1850 ...	£9,628	2	3	6/-	6,867
1855 ...	11,849	1	1	5/5	7,510
1860 ...	13,267	6	10	5/-	8,326
1865 ...	13,252	17	6	4/2	9,157
1870 ...	16,508	7	1	3/9	9,618
1875 ...	27,654	12	8	5/- ²	10,720
1880 ...	25,250	16	0	3/9	12,052
1883 ...	31,381	11	10	3/9	12,066

¹ The number of readers in the Coffee-Room, and the annual subscriptions they paid at the different periods stated, was as follows:—1840, subscribers, 213; annual subscription, 28s.;—1850, subscribers, 134; annual subscription, 28s.;—1855, subscribers, 135; annual subscription, 30s. In 1856 the proprietors leased the room to a number of the subscribers, who down to the present time (1884) manage its affairs. The number of subscribers in 1856 was 225, and the annual subscription, 20s.; in 1861 the number of subscribers was 195, and the annual subscription, 21s., at which it still continues; in 1870 there were 245 subscribers; in 1880, 235; and in 1883, 167.

² The rate was raised in consequence of the great increase in the price of coal.

In 1825, there were 180 public lamps ; in 1840, there were 637 ; in 1850, there were 659 ; in 1860, there were 794 ; in 1880, there were 1171 ; in 1883, there were 1250. In 1877, when excavations were being made for a new gas-holder, the horn of a red deer, thirty-six inches in length, was found about fifteen feet below the surface embedded in very soft black glazy mud. It was in fine condition, and was very properly placed in the Museum.

The improvement of the navigation of the River Cart is a question which from time to time has been agitated less or more in the community. There is a deeply-grounded belief in the minds of most of the inhabitants, that if the river navigation were improved the town would be greatly benefited and its prosperity vastly increased. A movement in this direction was made in 1853. A public meeting, promoted mainly by Mr. James Murray, shawl manufacturer, was held in the Court Hall on 13th June in that year, regarding the improvement of the navigation of the river, and a committee, with that gentleman as convener, was appointed to consider the important subject entrusted to them, and to act accordingly. In July following, they instructed Mr. James Leslie, C.E., Edinburgh, to make a survey of the river, "to report on its present state, and to make such suggestions as he thought the circumstances of the river required, keeping in view the twofold object of promoting general traffic and shipbuilding." To aid Mr. Leslie, they appointed Mr. James B. Chalmers, of Paisley, as their surveyor, who afterwards prepared a plan of the river on a scale of one inch to the hundred feet, having a longitudinal section of the river, with cross sections at every 100 yards showing the depth of water. Mr. Leslie, in the report he supplied, dated 3rd November, 1853, estimated the expense of obtaining a depth of water in the river of twelve feet at high water at £38,760. The committee, in their report to the public, made two suggestions on the way in which this improvement might be carried out, either by a Joint Stock Company or by an assessment on the town equally divided between landlords and tenants. But nothing was done. In 1854, Provost Macfarlane submitted a proposal for a settlement of the Burgh and River Cart Trust affairs, and as it was generally approved of by those interested, a bill was introduced into Parliament. But though it passed the Committee of the House of Commons, some difficulties arose in the House of Lords and it was abandoned.

In 1858 the Clyde Trustees proposed, in an Act of Parliament they were applying for, to alter the rates on goods brought in vessels up the rivers Clyde and Cart. By former Acts, the Clyde in the levying of dues was divided into three stages. The first stage was that part of the Clyde above the old ferry of Renfrew, which was about 600 yards to the east of the present ferry ; the second stage was from the said old ferry to Dalmuir Burn ; and the third stage was from Dalmuir Burn to Newark Castle. Goods carried over the first stage or any part of it were charged two-thirds of the rates and

duties ; on any part of the second stage, one-sixth of the rates and duties ; and on any part of the third stage, also one-sixth of the rates and duties. By this arrangement of stages, vessels coming up the Clyde and entering the Cart were charged for the goods on board two-sixth parts or one-third of the Clyde dues. The Clyde Trustees by the bill wished to abolish these stages and to charge a mileage rate. The Cart Trustees petitioned Parliament against the proposed alteration ; and after a great deal of correspondence and a number of meetings with the Clyde Trustees, the proposed objectionable clause was withdrawn. But in 1864 the Clyde Trustees, in an Act they were then applying for, made another attempt to abolish these stages. This bill was also petitioned against by the Cart Trustees, who had afterwards to be at the trouble and expense of leading evidence before the committee of the House of Commons to whom this bill was referred. The committee decided against the preamble of the Clyde Bill in so far as it affected these stages. The witnesses examined on the part of the Cart Trustees were Provost Murray and the present writer.

At different periods considerable quantities of ancient coins of no small value, have been discovered in Paisley and its neighbourhood.

On digging the foundations of the house at the north-east corner of New Street and Shuttle Street, on 12th May, 1735, a gold Lion of King James I. or II. was found. The coin is in good preservation, and is in the possession of the heirs of the late Mr. Archibald Gardner of Nethercommon. King James I. reigned from 1424 to 1437. This coin weighs fifty grains, and is very rare. On the *obverse* is *Jacobus Dei Gratia Rex Sc.* (James by the Grace of God King of Scots). The mint mark is the figure of a crown, and the legend of the king's name is round the margin. Between the words *Jacobus* and *Dei* there is a *fleur-de-lis*, and between the words *Gratia* and *Rex* there is another *fleur-de-lis*. The Lion Rampant, the arms of Scotland, from which the gold coins of that monarch obtain their name, is in a lozenge in the centre within a double tressure filled with *fleurs-de-lis*. On the *reverse* of this coin is *Salvum Fac. Populum Tuum A.* (Save Thy People ; so be it). The letter A is an abbreviation for *Amen*. The mint mark is a Maltese Cross. There is a *fleur-de-lis* between the mint mark and the word *salvum*, another between *a* and *l* in *salvum*, two small crosses between *salvum* and *fac*, a *fleur-de-lis* between *populum* and *tuum*, and another between *A* and the mint mark. In the centre is a Saint Andrew's Cross (with an *I* in the centre) between two *fleurs-de-lis* enclosed in a hexagon figure, composed of arcs curving towards the centre of the coin, with *fleurs-de-lis* on the points where the arcs join ; and in the curve of each is placed a quatrefoil (D. Semple's *St. Mirin*, p. 171).

The *Glasgow Mercury* of 5th April, 1791, contains the following paragraph regarding the discovery of a great number of ancient

coins :—"Some days ago there was found in the neighbourhood of Paisley about 515 silver pennies of the three first Edwards, weighing about twenty-two ounces. They have all the full face, with the epigraph, *Edw.*, *Edwa.*, or *Edward R. Ang. Dms. Hyb.*, and on the *reverse* the place where coined. Some coins which a gentleman in this city has rescued from the furnace, and are in high preservation, have *Civitas London*, *Civitas Cantor*, *Civitas Dureme* and *Dunelmie*, *Civitas Lincol*, *Civitas Eboraci*, *Vill. Nori. Castri*, *Vill. Segontii*, *Villa Bristollia*, *Villa Berevici*. One has *Civitas Waterfor*; another, which we take to be a rare coin of Edward II., has on the *obverse*, *Dux. Lunburgiae*, and on the *reverse*, *Dux. Brabantiae*. There were also among the collection five pennies of Alexander III., *Dei. Gra. Rex Scotorum*, and three of John Baliol, *Civitas S. Andreae*.

In November, 1869, while a labourer was digging a foundation for a building on the roadside leading from Paisley to Renfrew, near where Marjory Bruce, the "Queen Blearie" of tradition, met her death in hunting, he scattered with his spade a cluster of large gold coins, each about the size of half-a-crown. They were quite loose in the soil, not being secured in any wrapping. On counting the treasure, the labourer found they were twelve in number, and they were afterwards recognised as gold nobles of the reign of Edward III. of England. A few were in beautiful condition, the others being poorer specimens of numismatic art. The general appearance of the nobles is similar, but, although all of the same type, they seem struck from different dies. On one of the best of them the legend on the *obverse* is *Edward, Dei Gratia, Rex. Angl. R. Franc, D. Hyb.* Within the legend is the King armed and crowned, standing full-faced in a small one-masted ship, with a little flag at the mast-head, and on it the cross of St. George of England. In his right hand he holds a sword; in his left, a shield with the quartered arms of France and England. Along the bulwarks of the ship there is a row of lions, *passant quadrant*, and under them a row of port-holes. The *reverse* has the legend—*Ihc. Avtem Transiens, P. Medium fluriatim, Ibo.* Inside is a rich cross with lions under crowns in the angles, and in the centre of the coin is the letter *E*. These coins are very early specimens of the gold coinage of England. Edward III. reigned from A.D. 1327 to A.D. 1377, and his nobles were issued in A.D. 1344. It is of these gold pieces that the old couplet says—

"Four things are noble showeth unto me—
King, ship, and sword, the power of the sea."

This King was in Scotland in 1356, when he marched through the Lothians, burning Haddington and Edinburgh and wasting the neighbouring country, and it is not at all unlikely they were hid on that occasion (*Paisley Gazette*, 6th November, 1869).

With the exception of the Radical riots in 1819 and 1820 and the riot after the Parliamentary election on 12th July, 1852, it cannot

be said there have been any riots of a very serious nature in Paisley. Ebullitions of feeling have been manifested on several occasions on the part of the populace, but they have not had serious issues, and have not involved any great political or social principles.

In 1835 a difference arose between several of the weavers and manufacturers regarding the price at which certain kinds of work should be paid. On the 6th of September in that year some persons in Charleston formed an effigy of a manufacturer in town, and after allowing it to hang all the afternoon, a great crowd, preceded by a band of music, went through some of the principal streets carrying the effigy shoulder-high, with a lighted lantern to let it be properly seen. In their route they passed the shop of the Provost, which they saluted with loud cheering. They afterwards proceeded to the manufacturer's residence, assailed the inmates with shouting, burnt the effigy, and then broke a number of panes of glass in his windows. The alleged reason of the assault was that the manufacturer had been paying below the table prices, but it turned out that he had no work going on of the kind to which the table of prices referred. After the effigy had been burnt, a meeting of operatives was held in the Burgher Church, George Street, when it was resolved that notices should be carried through the streets, on boards, declaring the manufacturer out of the trade ; but this course was abandoned, and the bills were posted instead upon the walls. The authorities were much blamed for not stopping these illegal proceedings.

Another riot, somewhat similar to the foregoing, took place at Charleston in 1846. On 6th February in that year, an effigy intended to represent a most respectable and inoffensive manufacturer residing in that part of the town, who at that time was one of the Magistrates, was gibbeted upon a lamp-post, with a disgraceful label upon its breast, at the north-west corner of Stock Street. Before that gentleman made his appearance on the forenoon of that day on his way to the Police Court to discharge his magisterial duties, an immense crowd had collected, who immediately attacked him with hisses and groans and with disgraceful epithets. Not knowing the cause of the riot, and little at the time suspecting himself to be the object of it, he went forward and expostulated with the rabble on the impropriety of their conduct. The mob, however, persisted in their insulting demeanour towards him ; and the Bailie, seeing he could make no impression upon them, was under the necessity of retiring, when he was followed by the entire mob — which increased to many thousands — who kept hooting, yelling, and throwing offensive missiles. He took refuge in the house of a friend in New Street. A party of police soon after arrived and charged the mob, driving them back, and they succeeded in relieving him. A strong party of police then proceeded to Charleston, and after a severe struggle with the rioters, in which several of the party were more or less injured, they succeeded in taking down the effigy and destroying it. The Procurator-Fiscal immediately caused an investigation to be made, and he ascertained that the reasons

alleged for those riotous proceedings were entirely without foundation. This was afterwards confirmed by a publication in the newspapers by three of the most extensive and respectable manufacturing firms in town. The Fiscal also issued at the same time a mild and temperate remonstrance on the impropriety of such proceedings, warning workmen against them as illegal and dangerous, even although the report mentioned had been true.

At the Parliamentary election in 1852, the contest between Mr. Hastie and Mr. Haly for the representation of Paisley in the House of Commons was attended with much bitter political feeling. Mr. Haly was the popular candidate, and had the support of the great majority of the working-classes. So early as five o'clock on the morning of the election on 12th July in that year, Mr. Haly's partisans were astir, with bands of music, called "intimidation bands," and they continued to parade the streets during the day, occasionally assembling at the different polling-booths for the purpose of hooting and otherwise intimidating Mr. Hastie's supporters. The first hour's polling was in favour of Mr. Haly, but as each succeeding hour showed that that gentleman's chance of success was becoming less hopeful, the populace became exasperated. At four o'clock, when the polling-booths were closed, the majority, notwithstanding every species of annoyance, was in Mr. Hastie's favour by 32 votes; and it was alleged by his friends that he would have polled at least 100 additional votes had his supporters been able to make their way to the polling-booths. Provoked at defeat, an immense crowd assembled at the Cross and began to show their wrath by attacking and maltreating the friends of Mr. Hastie, particularly those observed entering his committee-room in the Saracen's Head Inn. Several had their hats knocked off and their coats literally torn from their backs. Missiles were thrown about in all directions, the glass in the windows of the Saracen's Head Inn was smashed, and the police repulsed, several of them, along with gentlemen in the crowd, being severely injured. As the scene at five o'clock was somewhat alarming, the Sheriff read the Riot Act, and a detachment of the 33rd Infantry, then lying in Paisley Barracks, was soon thereafter called out. With loaded muskets and fixed bayonets, they charged the rioters at the Cross and in County Square, and these fled in all directions. The various streets leading to the Cross were then barricaded with detachments of infantry, and none but respectable and orderly inhabitants were allowed to pass. This arrangement was quite successful. The soldiers about eight o'clock were withdrawn from the barricades, and perambulated some of the streets in a body, amidst the yells and cheers of the thoughtless crowd of youths then remaining. By ten o'clock quietness prevailed.

In September, 1855, a potato riot, fortunately on a small scale, took place in Paisley. For some time previously potatoes had been sold in the shops throughout the town at fourpence per stone. At that time, however, a simultaneous rise took place to fivepence per

stone without any apparent cause. This, it appears, led to enquiry on the part of many of the working-classes, who discovered that the wholesale dealers in potatoes had entered into a combination not to sell potatoes to any provision merchant who would retail them below fivepence per stone, and hence the general advance that had taken place in the price. A meeting was held in the First Ward on the 18th of that month, at which the potato merchants were strongly denounced for their conduct; and a handbill was circulated next day calling on the inhabitants not to purchase potatoes at fivepence per stone until a public meeting was convened to consider the subject. Preparations were made for holding other district meetings; but the excitement became most intense in the west end of the town; and during the following day it was rumoured that an effigy of a potato merchant in Broomlands Street, who was alleged to be the chairman of the associated dealers, was to be burned in the evening. This caused a crowd of boys to assemble near the potato merchant's premises, and they began to give vent to their feelings by hooting the young man in the shop. He threw some water upon those nearest the door, and the crowd immediately thereafter began to break the windows. The inhabitants of the locality generally were soon attracted to the spot by the noise and excitement, and at one time the crowd amounted to several thousands. No attempt was made, however, to stay the work of destruction, which continued until almost all the glass in the twelve windows, as well as in several of the frames, was completely destroyed. A few policemen arrived about nine o'clock, but the force was quite inadequate to cope with the crowd. About an hour afterwards a few more arrived, and at the same time the Provost and some of the Magistrates made their appearance; but the work of destruction was then completed, and the crowd soon afterwards quietly dispersed. On the following evening a crowd collected around the shop of a potato merchant in Williamsburgh, and after burning his effigy, smashed a number of panes of glass in some of his windows. A public meeting was also held in Causeyside district, but as potatoes returned to their former price further cause for agitation no longer existed.

On the evening of the Parliamentary election on 19th December, 1868, there was a considerable destruction of glass. A crowd of boys collected in the streets, and out of wanton mischief commenced to throw stones at the public lamps and at the windows both of shops and dwelling-houses. The places which suffered most were High Street, Storie Street, George Street, Underwood, Causeyside, Gauze Street, Smithhills, Inkle Street, Renfrew Road, Old Sneddon Street, St. James Place, &c. Some valuable plate-glass windows were destroyed, 120 public lamps were broken, and upwards of 400 panes of glass. The riot had no political significance whatever, for the windows of the supporters of both candidates for Parliamentary honour came in for a share of the damage.

In 1872, Provost Murray submitted a scheme for regulating the

affairs of the Burgh and Cart Navigation, and afterwards, with the support of the Town Council, Cart Trustees, creditors of both bodies, and others, succeeded in obtaining an Act of Parliament to legalise the same. By this Act the Cart Trustees were to consist of three members of Council, six elected by the creditors, and three by the traders on the river. This Act also reinstated the Town Council in the management of the property of the Corporation, the creditors receiving four per cent. per annum.

In 1882, the Cart Trustees, yielding to a desire expressed by several of their number, agreed that the river should again be surveyed, and a report made as to the best way of improving the navigation. For this purpose they engaged the eminent civil engineers, Messrs. Bell & Miller, of Glasgow, who furnished them with an able and exhaustive report as to what they thought should be done. The report and plans were prepared by Mr. Miller, of that firm.¹ The revenue of the river during the last half of this century has increased very considerably. In 1869 it was £694; in 1876, £910; in 1880, 1146; and in 1883, £1270 2s. 8d.

In July, 1875, Provost Murray accepted of an invitation to attend an international banquet in London, and the Council agreed "that it would be befitting the dignity of the Burgh to provide him with a robe of office, the cost to be defrayed out of the municipal funds." The robe was accordingly obtained from a respectable firm in town, and cost £32 15s.

On 31st March, 1877, the Council resolved, by virtue of the powers conferred by the Acts of Parliament, that from the 15th May following, the Petty Customs, or Causey Tax, as it was frequently called, which had been levied from time immemorial, should be abolished, and that in lieu thereof there should be levied by way of assessment upon all lands and premises within the Parliamentary Burgh liable to the assessment of rates for police purposes, an additional rate calculated to yield yearly £216 15s., being the net amount of these Petty Customs for 1876.

The railways in this district, and indeed everywhere, have proved so excellent a means of travelling, that they have increased to an enormous extent. The only additional facility, however, given to railway travelling in the present period in our district has been the joining of the Renfrew Railway to the railway between Paisley and Glasgow at Greenlaw in 1870, with a station at Renfrew Road. An Act was obtained in 1881 by the Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company to convert the Paisley Canal into a railway. This line is now formed, but not yet in operation. The number of

¹ In 1885 an Act of Parliament was obtained to carry out the suggestions in that report.

railway passengers who arrived at and left Paisley in 1883 is as follows :—

Passengers who arrived at Gilmour Street Station per Caledonian Railway, Glasgow and South-Western Railway, and Glasgow and Paisley Joint Railway,	676,800
Passengers who departed from Gilmour Street Station per these railways,	676,902

Total at Gilmour Street Station, 1,353,702

Passengers who arrived at Abercorn Station, Paisley and Renfrew Railway,	124,730
Passengers who departed from that station,	126,744

Total at Abercorn Station, 251,474

Total at Gilmour Street and Abercorn Stations, ... 1,605,176

At St. James Day Fair and other holidays, the number of people who take advantage of the facilities for travelling afforded by the railways converging on the town is very considerable. At the Spring Sacramental Fast-Days in 1882 and 1883 they were as follows :—

GILMOUR STREET STATION.		1882.	1883.
To Greenock, by Caledonian Railway,	730	399	
„ Greenock and the Coast, by Glasgow and South-Western Railway,	700	760	
„ Wemyss Bay and the Coast,	500	354	
„ Kilmarnock, Ayr, &c.,	2950	1143	
„ Glasgow,	4236	4622	
„ Edinburgh and the North,	500	215	
ABERCORN STATION.			
„ Glasgow,	107	85	
„ Renfrew,	502	494	
		10,225	8072

The following statement shows the number of people who left Paisley on the four days at St. James Day Fair in August, 1882 and 1883, commencing on Thursday and ending on Monday following :—

	AUGUST, 1882.				AUGUST, 1883.			
	10th.	11th.	12th.	14th.	9th.	10th.	11th.	13th.
GILMOUR STREET STATION.								
To Greenock, Wemyss Bay, } and the Coast, by Cale- } donian Railway,	2617	3000	4907	2051	3250	2430	4667	1659
To Edinburgh and the North, } To Greenock and the Coast, } by Glasgow and South- } Western Railway,	378	415	635	257	150	50	115	76
To Ayr, Kilmarnock, &c., ...	1939	2032	4428	1618	1200	1000	3139	1276
To Glasgow,	1890	10472	2824	3246	4000	2000	7188	3630
ABERCORN STATION.								
To Renfrew and the Coast, ...	1200	4862	3459	1862	665	878	2500	1260
To Glasgow,	120	271	149	45	11	11	56	12
	10,780	23,274	20,084	10,522	11,876	8469	20,577	9069

According to the foregoing table, the total number of people who left Paisley in 1882 was 64,660, and in 1883, 49,991; decrease in 1883, 14,669. The decrease was in consequence of the unfavourable weather that prevailed in 1883.

Prior to the opening of the railways in Paisley for passenger traffic, there were no hackney carriages or cabs on the streets waiting to be hired; and when one was wanted notice had to be sent to that effect to proprietors, and it was obtained after the expiry of at least a quarter of an hour. Shortly after the opening of the railways, one or two owners of cabs, as a venture, sent a cab to the railway station to obtain engagements; and the inhabitants finding the great convenience of this arrangement, and pleased with the moderate charge, soon gave them sufficient employment. As the demand increased, so did the supply of the cabs, and they now number 29. The charge is 1s. for a distance not exceeding one mile, and when engaged by the hour to make calls it is 2s. per hour.

The subject of licensing public-houses for the sale of excisable liquors has constantly engaged the attention of the Justices of Peace in this district. Indeed, the discharge of their magisterial duties in this matter has always been the source of more anxiety to them than any other business that is brought before them. In 1847, several meetings of the Justices were held at Renfrew to devise means to check the increase and even to reduce the number of public-houses. They resolved in 1850, at a meeting of Quarter Sessions, that the maximum number of certificates to be granted in future in each burgh and parish should not exceed the proportion of one to each 250 inhabitants; that no new licenses be granted until the number is reduced to this maximum; that no license be given to any one who keeps a shop for the sale of groceries, except in very special cases; and that licenses be granted only on the condition that the shops be not opened between the hours of twelve on Saturday night and five o'clock on Monday morning. In 1858, on a motion at Quarter Sessions made by the present writer, a return was made of the number of licenses granted to retail spirituous liquors in the County of Renfrew since 1828. That part of it relating to Paisley was as follows:—378 in 1828, 326 in 1833, 341 in 1838, 258 in 1843, 261 in 1848, 231 in 1853, 220 in 1856, 220 in 1857, and 216 in 1858. The number of licenses granted afterwards was—223 in 1873, 225 in 1877, 221 in 1880, 220 in 1881, 6 inns and hotels, 169 public-houses, 5 beer, and 39 grocers', in all 219, in 1882; 4 inns and hotels, 168 public-houses, 5 beer, and 38 grocers', in all 215, in 1883. On 15th August, 1853, the Act of Parliament popularly known as Forbes M'Kenzie's was passed. Its object was to restrict the hours for selling spirituous liquors during six days in the week from eight in the morning to eleven o'clock at night, to prohibit their sale during the whole Sabbath except to travellers in inns licensed as such, to stop the

sale for consumption on the premises in grocery or provision shops, and to take away licenses from toll-houses in all cases where there is a licensed house within six miles of such toll. Powers were given by the Act 25 and 26 Vict., cap. 35, passed in 1862, to the Chief Magistrate, or, failing him, to the two senior acting Magistrates of any burgh, to grant special licenses, in writing, for any public or special entertainment, if they shall see fit, beyond the hours prescribed by the certificate for closing, Sunday excepted, and under such regulations as the Magistrates may appoint. In Paisley, special licenses were granted—123 of these in 1863, 239 in 1866, 283 in 1869, 237 in 1872, 247 in 1875, 85 in 1878, 83 in 1881, and 57 in 1883.

The clerks to the Town Council have always held a very important position in the community. They were selected for their integrity and knowledge in all legal matters, so as to guide the Magistrates and Councillors in their deliberations in every difficulty that arose. Their influence in the community has deservedly been very considerable. As men of peace, they no doubt in many instances, like the town clerk of Ephesus, have urged the Councillors to do nothing rashly. We have thought it better to give here a brief *resumé* of the history of the office than to have it broken down piecemeal in the different chapters.

The first town clerk we have found named in the Council records is Robert Semple, who, on the 10th October, 1595, was appointed in these terms—"Quhilk day Robert Semple, not., was choisson clerk and sworne for faithfull administration of his office for the yeir to cum in prns. of the haill Counsall Committie." He was elected annually afterwards, and on every occasion took the same oath. It does not appear, however, that this was his first appointment. On 15th October, 1601, the Council elected two clerks, thus—"Quilk day Robert Semple, notar, and, in his absence, Johne Hendersoune, notar, wer electit clerks of the said bghe and sworne for faithfull administratioun of their office for the yeir to cum in prns. of the Csall and haill Committie." This arrangement appears to have continued down to Michaelmas, 1603, when one of the Bailies for the previous year, "Thomas Inglis, burgess of the said burghe and notar publick, was electit and choisne be the said Bailies and Counsell, wit advyce of James, the Mr. of Paislay, c'moune clerk of the said burghe for the space of ane yeir next following the feist of Michaelmes last by past. With power to the said Thomas to make and constitute substitutes under him, with consent of the saidis Bailies and Counsell, providing that Robert Semple and John Hendersoune be admittit nane of the saidis substitutes. And the said Thomas gave his aithe for leel and trew administratioun of the said office, and askit actis of the said electioun." It would appear from the terms of this appointment that some disagreement had taken place between the two former clerks and the Council. On 10th October, 1605, John Hendersoun

was elected clerk. In 1622 his successor was John Greenleis. In 1634, Robert Alexander, writer, Paisley, was appointed clerk, and must have resigned his post prior to 1646, for in that year he was a member of Council. Robert Alexander was descended from an old and wealthy family in Paisley, who were the owners of several properties therein. He was born in 1604, and served as an apprentice to Mr. Thomas Inglis of Crossflat, writer, who died in June, 1622, and he finished his apprenticeship with Mr. John White, writer. Some time afterwards, he commenced business on his own account. Robert Alexander succeeded to the property called the Paisley Tack, already noticed (vol. i., p. 149). In 1648, he bought Blackhouse estate, near Ayr; in 1665, Boghall estate, in the County of Ayr; and in 1670, Newton estate, to the west of Paisley. He took the title of Blackhouse, and did a considerable professional business in Paisley. The deed of sale of the superiority of Paisley by the Earl of Dundonald was, as already mentioned, drawn by him. He died in 1687, aged eighty-three years. In the chancel of the Paisley Abbey, there is a flat stone with "R. A." on it, for Robert Alexander, and between the initials the Alexander armorial bearings, and "M. A." on the same stone, for Marion Hamilton, his first wife, and between the initials the Hamilton arms, and also "J. H.," representing Janet Henderson, his second wife, with the Henderson arms between the initials. One of his descendants, Robert Alexander, writer to the signet, succeeded to the lands of Newton, Paisley Tack, and Aikits Yard. On 18th October, 1717, he mortified the sum of 2000 merks Scots with the Town Council of Paisley, "the interest whereof was to be applied to the sustentation and maintenance of two old, decayed, indigent, honest persons, man or woman." This is known by the name of Alexander's Charity. The Alexanders of Ballochmyle and Southbar are his lineal descendants. At the great Conservative demonstration in the Clark Town Hall on 8th November, 1883, Major-General Alexander of Ballochmyle, M.P., stated, in seconding a resolution, that, as a Paisley body, he counted it a privilege to do so, and had he not had a seat for South Ayrshire, he did not know any constituency he would rather woo than Paisley. He was succeeded in 1645 by Robert Park, who held office till 1678. On 3rd October in that year, John Fork was elected clerk. He did not retain the office long, as in 1683 he was succeeded by Hew Snodgrass, writer in Paisley. On 24th October, 1689, James Alexander, writer, was appointed clerk. It appears that Mr. Snodgrass had not returned all the books he had in his possession when town clerk, for on 18th November following the Council passed an Act as to his "giving up the town's registers." On 22nd January, 1695, Robert Park, writer, Glasgow, was elected Town Clerk. In 1703, Mr. Park died, and on 16th September, 1703, Robert Alexander, writer, Glasgow, was appointed to fill the vacant office till the next head court. At the head court on 16th October following, he was re-elected during pleasure,

and granted "the whole casualties and emoluments pertaining to the office as use is, and gave his oath *de fideli administratione* and secrecy, and swore and signed the oath of allegiance, and signed the assurance." In 1709 Robert Wilson was elected clerk. At his death, the Council agreed that his successor should be burdened with the payment of forty merks (£2 4s. 5½d.) to Christian Gibb, relict of Robert Wilson, at four times in the year by equal portions. On 12th January, 1741, the Council appointed James Kerr, writer in Paisley, town clerk, and agreed he should have all the emoluments possessed by his predecessor, but he was burdened with the payment of the aliment to the widow of the late town clerk. On 3rd November following, the Council elected William Wilkie, writer in Paisley, as a clerk to sign decreets and other deeds at the instance of James, their clerk. Mr. Kerr died in October, 1743, and the Council on the 23rd of that month elected Alexander Wallace, jun., writer in Edinburgh, to be clerk, and to make the same payments to Mrs. Wilson. As the clerk was "to be necessarily absent for some time, and that [seeing] it is requisite an interim clerk be appointed to officiate until his return," they appointed on 1st March, 1744, Mr. Wilkie, writer in Paisley, for that purpose. Alex. Wallace died in July, 1746, and on the 28th of that month the Council appointed Thomas Simpson, writer in Paisley, as his successor. At that time he was procurator-fiscal. He was not burdened with any payment to Mrs. Wilson. William Cochran was on 27th December, 1754, appointed depute-clerk *pro re nata*; and on 6th October following, the Council, "considering that the Burgh is at present without a clerk, by William Cochran having made his escape out of prison, being incarcerated for an alleged crime, and fled out of the place, and that it is of moment to the Burgh the office be properly supplied with a proper person of a known character for integrity and knowledge," appointed Alexander Skeoch, writer in Paisley; and on 14th September, 1764, Thomas Kibble, procurator-fiscal, was elected depute town clerk. On 15th August, 1768, as Mr. Skeoch was indisposed and unable to attend to the business of the town, the Council appointed Hew Snodgrass, writer in Paisley, to be conjunct clerk, and to receive the half of the emoluments. On the 11th November following, the Council, in consequence of the death of Mr. Skeoch, appointed Alexander Gibson to be clerk. Mr. Gibson's son, Nathaniel Gibson, was made conjunct clerk on 30th January, 1801. On 12th October, 1810, Nathaniel Gibson was chosen to be sole town clerk. The salary paid to the town clerks from time immemorial was ten merks (11s. 1½d.) The Council, in consequence of the emoluments being considerably reduced from a change in the registry of deeds and from the increased number of public transactions attached to the office, agreed that the annual salary should be raised to £60. Mr. Gibson died on 17th February, 1827. The Council on the 28th of that month "unanimously appointed Mr. James Wylie, writer, Paisley, to be town clerk, in consequence of the great interest he had taken

in the affairs of the community, his known ability, and integrity." But Mr. Wylie respectfully declined to accept the appointment, and the Council on 19th April agreed to advertise for candidates to fill the office. At a meeting of Council held on the 22nd of that month, letters of application from the following gentlemen were read:—Messrs. Gavin Lang, Martin & Simpson, Andrew Mercer, Gardner & M'Lean, John Hart, Andrew Paterson, and Samuel Gemmell. On the 17th July, Mr. Gavin Lang was elected by the casting vote of the Treasurer, Mr. John Hart having obtained the same number of votes. On 11th June, 1839, Mr. Robert Wilson, the partner of Mr. Lang, was appointed depute town clerk. On 30th September, 1845, Mr. Lang died, and Mr. Robert Wilson was elected, on 15th October in that year, town clerk. He did not hold the office for any great length of time, as he died on 18th March, 1849. "The Council unanimously resolved to record their deep regret for the sudden and lamented death of their clerk, Mr. Robert Wilson, who for a period of nearly five years discharged the important duties of that office with great ability, impartiality, and fidelity; and by his honourable and upright character and great urbanity of manner secured the respect of all with whom he was associated" (*Council Records*, 27th March, 1849). A monument was erected by public subscription in the Cemetery, with an appropriate inscription on it. On the 10th April following, Messrs. William Martin and William Hodge were elected joint town clerks. At a meeting of Council held on 4th December, 1860, "the Provost stated, in consequence of the lamented death of Mr. William Martin, one of the town clerks, which took place on the 1st curt.," that it was necessary to make new arrangements. The Council unanimously appointed Mr. Hodge to "be town clerk at a salary of £10 per annum, with right to all the privileges and emoluments pertaining to the office." Mr. Hodge having become indisposed and unfit for business, Mr. David Young and Mr. Francis Martin, son of the late Mr. William Martin, town clerk, having been long in the town clerk's office, were on 10th October, 1876, appointed town clerks *ad interim*. Mr. Hodge, after a confinement of several years, died on 11th December, 1880. "The Council resolved to record their deep regret for the lamented death of the late Mr. William Hodge, town clerk, who had, until laid aside by illness, discharged the duties of the town clerkship since the year 1849 with much ability, impartiality, and fidelity; and by his upright and honourable conduct secured the respect of all with whom he associated. The clerks were directed to send an excerpt of this minute to Mrs. Archibald Coats" (his only child)—(*Council Records*, 14th December, 1880). Messrs. David Young and Francis Martin were appointed town clerks on 14th December, 1880, and hold that important office while we write.

The marriage of the Prince of Wales to Princess Alexandra of Denmark, on 10th March, 1863, was celebrated with much re-

joining in the town. The public works were stopped, the shops were closed, and the Volunteers, along with the Militia, fired a *feu-de-joie* in County Square in the forenoon, and afterwards marched through the town. In the afternoon, there was a public dinner in the Exchange Rooms and a soiree in the High Church. During the evening, the town was illuminated, and there was also a display of fireworks. Throughout the town, many flags and beautiful transparencies and devices were exhibited. The public bells were also rung at different periods during the day, and unfortunately the bell of the Cross steeple cracked, and was thereby rendered useless. This bell weighed 5 cwt. 1 qr. 4 lbs., had served the inhabitants for 215 years, and had the following inscription on it:—

“Soli - Deo - Gloria..

Cornelius-Ovderogce-Fecit-En. D. J. O. Rotterdam. anno-Domini. 1648.”

Glory to God alone. Made by Cornelius Ovderogce, bell-maker and organ-builder, Rotterdam, in the year of our Lord 1648. And on the middle of the bell—

“For - the - towne - of - Paslay.”

The Council, after receiving estimates from several parties for the supply of a new bell, accepted the offer of Messrs. George Mears & Co., London, to provide one at £7 7s. per cwt., and to allow £5 5s. per cwt. for the old bell.¹ The new bell weighed 7 cwt. 2 qrs. 8 lbs.

About five years afterwards, a more serious misfortune befel the Cross steeple. In November, 1868, a considerable subsidence of this steeple towards the south took place, in consequence of a sewer seven feet from the foundation of the steeple, and five and a-half deep, being formed in High Street from the shop adjoining the west side of the steeple. On the recommendation of skilled gentlemen who were consulted, the steeple was in the following month supported by large logs of wood to prevent any farther subsidence. The steeple continued in this state till the following May, when the Council agreed to take it down. But an *interim* interdict at the instance of Mr. John Crawford, writer, was obtained from the Court of Session to prevent this being carried out. On 17th December following, the Court withdrew this interdict, and granted permission to take it down; but Mr. Crawford appealed the case to the Judges in the Inner House, who on 10th March, 1870, adhered to the decision of the Lord Ordinary. The steeple was afterwards taken down, and the site was acquired by the Commissioners of Police for the widening of High Street, by valuation, at £1500, on the condition that £1000 of this sum was to be set aside for a steeple in some other place, and £500 to be applied to municipal purposes in lieu of the rent that was received for the shop in the steeple. The lowest foundation stones, about one foot thick, and projecting two feet beyond

¹ This bell was bought by Mr. Dundas Porteous, engineer, Paisley, on the same terms.

the face of the steeple, were only one foot eight inches from the surface of the ground, the earth having been incautiously taken away from time to time in the lowering of the street in order to obtain a more level roadway.

The Town Council and the Commissioners of Police, possessing and exercising large and independent powers in the government of the Burgh, had frequently come into conflict. On 5th January, 1864, a deputation from the electors presented a petition to the Town Council asking them to take measures to place the affairs of these two bodies under one jurisdiction. A meeting of electors, called by the Council, was held in the Gaelic Church, on 26th March following, when those present almost unanimously resolved that the General Police Act of 1862 should be adopted by the inhabitants. This decision was afterwards affirmed by the Sheriff, and the effect of it was that this Act fell to be carried out by the Town Council, and the Commission of Police was thereafter merged in the Town Council. The combined management of municipal and police affairs since that time has satisfactorily shown the wisdom of that resolution.

The Commissioners appointed by Government, in their report on Municipal Corporations in 1833, page 287, state that the courts held by the Magistrates of Paisley are the Burgh Court, held twice a week, in which civil cases are decided, and the Convene Court, which is a court of advice and does not enforce its decrees, and is held daily. The Magistrates had frequently endeavoured to put an end to the Convene Court, but the people were attached to it, and the Magistrates had hitherto yielded to their wishes by keeping it up. The mode in which it was conducted was this :—Any party conceiving himself to have a claim against another obtained a summons, which cost a sixpence, calling him to answer before the Convene Court. If the party summoned yielded obedience to the citation, which was generally the case, the complaint and the answer were stated in the presence of the presiding Magistrate, who gave his advice to the parties, and they were required to state at the time whether they intended to adopt it or not, in order that, in case of refusal, the pursuer might employ other measures. In this way from 400 to 500 cases were disposed of every year, and there were comparatively very few instances of parties not adopting the advice they received. Both the Burgh and Convene Courts have long since ceased to exist, and all that remains of the latter is the apartment in which it was held, still known by the name of the "Convene Room." The Royal Commissioners state further in their report that during the thirteen years prior to 1834 the number of cases decided in the Police Court, which sat daily, was 17,905 ; and that during 1833 the number was nearly double the general average.

In 1873 and 1874, the police force amounted to 45 ; in 1875 and 1876, to 46 ; in 1877 and 1878, to 47 ; in 1879, to 49 ; in 1880, to 50 ; in 1881, to 51 ; in 1882, to 53 ; in 1883, to 55 ; and in the last-

named year consisted of 1 superintendent, 1 lieutenant, 2 inspectors, 1 detective, 4 sergeants, and 46 constables.¹

The following comparative table relating to crime, accidents and sudden deaths, fires, licensed lodging-houses, licensed cabs, and certified pedlars, is compiled from the annual returns of the Paisley Burgh Police:—

YEARS.	Crimes against the Person. Number Apprehended.	Crimes against Property. Number Apprehended.	Miscellaneous Crimes.	Total Crimes and Offences.	Accidents and Sudden Deaths.	Fires.	Licensed Lodging-houses.	Licensed Cabs.	Certified Pedlars.
1859,	365	196	1544	2105	...	...	...	...	...
1860,	385	196	2062	2643	...	...	...	...	...
1861,	402	188	1638	2228	...	...	...	...	...
1862,	464	230	1485	2179	...	...	...	...	...
1863,	558	251	1671	2480	...	...	...	...	...
1864,	545	276	1812	2633	...	...	...	...	...
1865,	433	181	1664	2278	...	...	...	...	...
1866,	377	203	1403	1983	...	...	...	...	...
1867,	207	202	1473	1882	...	...	...	...	...
1868,	300	240	1701	2241	...	...	...	...	...
1869,	298	259	1653	2210	79	22	...	...	...
1870,	272	258	1864	2394	73	25	...	...	...
1871,	338	217	2065	2620	...	...	...	...	...
1872,	320	237	2847	3404	42	18	17	15	327 ²
1873,	186	233	2388	2807	55	16	22	11	318
1874,	280	220	2215	2715	39	15	22	16	302
1875,	181	203	1985	2369	35	12	18	18	330
1876,	141	186	2133	2463	38	13	18	22	318
1877,	117	154	1924	2195	37	13	18	24	321
1878,	132	189	1283	1604	25	21	18	21	327
1879,	90	183	902	1175	21	24	18	27	315
1880,	139	200	1226	1565	35	19	11	25	293
1881,	126	180	1507	1813	23	18	11	29	210
1882,	137	171	1735	2063	26	14	11	29	79 ³
1883,	22	179	2029	2230	44	23	11	29	91

¹ The word "Constable" is, by some authorities, derived from the Saxon words "Koning" and "Stapel," signifying a support of the King; and by others, from the Latin words "Comes" and "Stabuli," denoting a master of the horse. The latter derivation is that adopted by Spelman, Du Cange, and others, and has reference probably to the duties of that officer, well known in the empire, who had to regulate all matters of chivalry—tilts, tournaments, and feats of arms—which were performed on horseback. Such, also, was the duty of the Constable of France, one of the great officers of State, who, in virtue of his office, had the chief command of the army, and took cognizance of military offences. The office was suppressed by an edict of Louis XIII., but was revived by Napoleon I., who constituted it one of the six grand dignities under the French Empire. On the restoration of the Bourbon Dynasty in 1814, however, it was finally abolished (*History of the High Constables of Edinburgh*, by James D. Marwick, p. 3).

² This includes certificates granted for the Burgh and those granted in other jurisdictions and endorsed for the Burgh.

³ Certificates granted for the Burgh.

The Paisley Races at Saint James Day Fair during the period we are considering did not, with one or two exceptions, present any new feature, and were not equal in any way to what they had been in the fourth and fifth decades of the century, as already described. The committee having charge of the races always received the patronage of the Member of Parliament for the town, along with a subscription of £52 10s. to the Race Fund. They also always succeeded in having a good list of stewards. In 1855, the stewards were Archibald Hastie, Esq., M.P. for Paisley; Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart, Bart., M.P. for Renfrewshire; James Merry, Esq.; William Sharpe, Esq.; George Baird, Esq.; and W. M. Redfern, Esq. In 1865, the patrons and subscribers were the Provost and Magistrates of Paisley; H. E. Crum Ewing, M.P.; Captain A. A. Speirs, M.P.; Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart, Bart.; Robert Dalglish, Esq., M.P.; Archibald Kintrea, Esq.; Lieutenant-Colonel Mure of Caldwell; H. C. Hughes, Esq.; Colonel Campbell, yr. of Blythswood; and James Steel, Esq., Sunderland Castle. In 1875, the stewards were Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart, Bart.; Colonel Campbell of Blythswood; Henry Greet, Esq.; and Bailie Cowan. In 1883, the stewards were the Duke of Montrose; Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart, Bart.; Sir Archibald Campbell, Bart. of Blythswood; Hon. Thomas H. A. E. Cochrane, Hawkhead; J. C. Cuninghame, Esq. of Craighends; M. Hugh Shaw Stewart, Esq., Ardgowan; William Stevenson, Esq. of Househill; and William Hall Maxwell, Esq. of Dargavel.

When the weather was good during the days of the races in the different years, the number of spectators in the race-grounds was always very great. The committee who manage the races at present are, we understand, Treasurer Robert Cochran, ex-Bailie James M'Lauchlan, and Mr. Daniel Souden. But they hold no public meetings, and do not publish their proceedings or intromissions.

We noticed the establishment of the first two banks in Paisley near the close of the last century, the Paisley Banking Company and the Paisley Union Bank. — The Commercial Bank of Scotland opened a branch bank on 12th April, 1825. Mr. Francis Martin was the agent, and the bank was at No. 51 Moss Street. It was given up after a few years. This banking company again opened a branch bank in 1876. Mr. James Ross is the first agent; and the bank, which was at first at No. 8 Causeyside Street, has been, since 12th February, 1878, at No. 6 Gilmour Street. — The Western Bank of Scotland opened a branch bank in M'Leod's Buildings, New Smithhills Street, on 6th July, 1832, and Mr. Thomas Risk was the agent. The office, a few years afterwards, was removed to the new buildings erected by the managers at No. 1 Forbes Place. — In 1833, the Bank of Scotland bought the property at the foot of St. Mirin Street known by the name of the Turf Inn. The first agent was Mr. James Findlay, son of the late Rev. John Findlay, D.D., of the High Church, Paisley. Two years afterwards, new bank buildings were erected on the same site, which were opened

for business on 8th March, 1836. Mr. Findlay died on 22nd August, 1850, and was succeeded by Mr. John Hutchison. The present agent is Mr. George Seton Veitch, who was appointed joint-agent with Mr. Hutchison in 1876, and in 1880 sole agent. When St. Mirin Street was widened, the Bank of Scotland office was removed to its present place in that street. — Mr. Arthur Welsh in 1834 succeeded Mr. Adam Keir in the Paisley Bank, and on 20th May, 1837, that banking company, in consequence of the expiry of their contract of copartnery, gave up business, and made arrangements with the British Linen Bank to continue it. Mr. John Peden succeeded Mr. Welsh in 1857, and Mr. Hugh Macfarlane, the present agent, was appointed successor to Mr. Peden in 1868. At that time the bank office was transferred from No. 1 Cotton Street to the present new premises which the directors erected in Gilmour Street. — In 1834, the Union Bank of Glasgow opened a branch bank in Christie's Buildings at the Old Bridge, and appointed Mr. Thomas Risk, of the Western Bank, to be agent; Mr. John Bulley succeeding Mr. Risk in the Western Bank. The Paisley Union Bank amalgamated with the Union Bank of Glasgow in 1838. In the early part of this century, Mr. John Lickly was the cashier in the Paisley Union Bank, and his successor was Mr. James Millar. At the end of the second decade of this century, Mr. John Scott succeeded Mr. Millar, and at the amalgamation he was continued as cashier, and the business was conducted at the office in Christie's Terrace till the new bank buildings were erected in Gilmour Street. Mr. Scott died on 2nd April, 1856, and was succeeded by Mr. John Affleck, at that time the teller in the bank. Mr. Affleck continued to be agent till 1867, when he was promoted to be assistant-manager at the head office, Glasgow. His successor was Mr. William Abercrombie, the present agent, on 23rd May, 1867. — The Paisley Commercial Banking Company, with a capital of £200,000, was established in 1838, and the first directors were Messrs. William Brown of Egypt Park; Hugh Craw of Muirston; Robert Kerr, manufacturer, Thread Street; Andrew Kirkwood, merchant, Beith; Adam Hamilton of Lounsedale; James M'Kenzie, merchant, Glasgow; and James Stirrat, thread manufacturer, Paisley. Mr. Thomas Risk was appointed manager, and commenced business in M'Leod's Buildings, New Smithhills, on 14th February, 1839. The bank did not continue long to do business. From May, 1844, it was amalgamated with the Western Bank of Scotland, and Mr. Thomas Risk continued as agent. — The Clydesdale Bank, Glasgow, opened a branch bank in Causeyside, opposite St. Mirin Street, in 1845, under the agency of Mr. Alexander Borland, but it was continued only for a short time. This banking company again opened a branch bank at the Cross in 1865, and the first agent was Mr. William Abercrombie, who, on his appointment in 1867 to be agent to the Union Bank, Paisley, as already stated, was succeeded by Mr. David Campbell, writer. At his death, in 1874, he was succeeded by the present agent, Mr. Robert Russell. — When the Western Bank

of Scotland suspended payments in December, 1857, the National Bank of Scotland succeeded to the business in Paisley. Mr. P. Guillaume, who was the first agent, died on 5th September, 1883, and was succeeded by the present agent, Mr. Donald Maclean, who held the bank agency for the National Bank at Langholm.—The City Bank of Glasgow opened a branch bank in Paisley in 1857, and Mr. Archibald Hodge, accountant, was the first agent. Mr. Hodge in 1861 retired from the bank to fill a situation with a manufacturing firm in town, and his successor was Mr. Alexander Pollock. During two years prior to Mr. Pollock's death, on 12th April, 1877, Mr. Thomas Finlator acted as joint-agent. The first office of the City of Glasgow Bank was in Moss Street, at the Cross. In 1869, the directors, after the steeple at the Cross was taken down, bought in 1869 a part of what was formerly the Saracen's Head Inn, and erected thereon new bank buildings. The Town Council were at the expense of placing a clock on the top of the building, as a substitute for the steeple clock.—The Royal Bank of Scotland opened a branch bank in 1872. Mr. David Murray was the first agent, and the bank office was in the School of Design Buildings, Gilmour Street; but the bank has since erected for its own accommodation one of the handsome new structures in St. Mirin Street. After the suspension of payments by the City of Glasgow Bank, on 2nd October, 1878, Mr. Finlator became joint-agent of the Royal Bank, and at Mr. Murray's death, on 29th July, 1879, he was appointed sole agent.

At the close of the Crimean War, Lord Panmure, in a letter from the War Office dated 28th April, 1857, presented to the inhabitants of Paisley two iron ordnance, which had been captured from the Russians, to be exhibited in such a place in the town as might be considered best by the Town Council. The Council accepted the gift; and in October following, on the recommendation of the Magistrates, agreed that the Russian war trophies should be placed in the vacant space within the railings on each side of the entrance to the County Buildings. There they remained till after the Drill Hall was erected in High Street, when the Council resolved, on 3rd April, 1866, that they should be removed, along with the carriages on which they were seated, and placed in front of that building, as a more appropriate position. In Paisley, and throughout the whole country, meetings were held for the purpose of raising funds to support the widows and orphans of those killed during the Crimean War.

In 1788, the "articles and regulations of the corresponding and improving society of farmers in Renfrewshire" were published, and the sphere of its operations was mostly confined to the parish of Kilbarchan. The Rev. John Warner, Kilbarchan, who took an active interest in the society, published several essays on agricultural subjects. One of them, of 76 printed pages, price 8d., was "A letter

to the west country farmers concerning the difficulties and management of a bad harvest. Paisley: printed by A. Weir and A. M'Lean, 1773." Afterwards, an agricultural society on a limited scale existed for a number of years in the parishes of Renfrew, Erskine, and Inchinnan, for improving the breed of cattle and promoting good ploughing. This society having become extinct, it was suggested that an institution embracing numerous objects, and therefore of a more extensive nature, would be more beneficial. In furtherance of this object, a few spirited individuals waited upon some of the large landed proprietors, and, having obtained their approbation and subscriptions, the members formed themselves, in 1819, into the Renfrewshire Agricultural Society, the professed objects of which were to promote improvement in agricultural science. At first, the attention of the society was chiefly directed to excellence in ploughing and the improvement of the breed of cattle. For several years after its commencement, the premiums for cattle, besides the sums awarded at the annual ploughing matches, amounted only to about £20. The society, however, was found to be useful, and has gradually increased in importance, so that at present it is in a most prosperous position. The annual exhibition of live stock and implements has always taken place in Paisley. The gradual improvement of the annual exhibitions may be judged from the following statement:—In 1876, the entries for the show were 327; 417 entries in 1877; 589 entries in 1878; 697 entries in 1879; 728 entries in 1880; 796 entries in 1881; 814 entries in 1882; and 834 entries in 1883. At the show in 1883 the following prizes were offered for competition:—For Ayrshire cows, £173 15s.; sheep, £34 6s.; Clydesdale horses, £137 10s.; hunters and roadsters, £38 10s.; ponies and cobs, £24; swine, £3; dogs, £29 15s.; dairy produce, £15; poultry, £9 15s.

Previous to the invention and the present almost universal use of the reaping machine, the Cross of Paisley during the early mornings of the harvest time was a scene of great stir and activity. Between the hours of five and six in the morning, there would be seen from 400 to 600 reapers, mostly Irish, each carrying a sickle or reaping-hook, waiting anxiously to be employed.¹ When a reaper was engaged, he delivered his hook to his employer, who laid it over his left arm along with any others he might have secured. The farmer on leaving the Market Cross with his armful of hooks was followed by those he had engaged, and when outside of the town the hooks were given up to the respective owners. The cutting of corn by the sickle is very laborious, on account of the stooping required to cut near the ground. To overtake this work, generally in hot weather, the Rev. Mr. Bell of Forfarshire, about the middle of this century, invented a reaping machine to be propelled by horse power. In

¹ The common reaping-hook is one of the oldest instruments of husbandry, and Ceres, the goddess of agriculture, was generally represented by the ancients with a sheaf of corn and a sickle in her hand.

the United States of America this machine was first taken advantage of, but it was not till 1861 that it was introduced into this country. Since then, various reaping machines, differing more or less from Bell's reaper, have been in successful operation in almost every part of the country — so much so, that hand-reaping is almost extinct, and the square at the Cross on harvest mornings, having lost all its former animation, is little different from what it is in any other period of the summer. According to Government returns, the migration of the Irish as reapers to England and Scotland in harvest times amounted in 1841 to no less than 58,000 ; in 1880, the number had fallen to 23,000 ; in 1881, to 21,300 ; in 1882, to 16,800 ; and in 1883, to 14,780. The reaping machines make better work than either the sickle or scythe, and by their use the farmers can without harassment cut down their crops expeditiously as they ripen. This machine has almost superseded also the mowing of grass with the scythe.

The Paisley Florist Society was instituted as far back as 1782. As the rules state, it has for its object the encouragement and improvement of floriculture, by appointing competitions for showing the various flowers which in their seasons come under the cognisance of the society, and for the acquisition and dissemination of floricultural knowledge among its members. During the flower season, members are expected to bring forward flowers for competition among themselves, or for the purpose of eliciting the opinion of members respecting their merits ; and during the winter season, by essays or papers read by experienced growers on the best means of cultivating the various "florist" flowers, as also for the social intercourse of its members. The Committee of Management consists of honorary president, president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. The annual subscription is two shillings. Many of the working-classes in former times, and to a less extent at the present time, have paid great attention to the cultivation of flowers, and this society has done good service by their annual competitions and prizes. We observe that at the annual general competition held in the Royal Oak, Moss Street, on 5th June, 1830, for the twelve best tulips, the first prize was given to Mr. William Adam, weaver, Caledonia Street ; the second to Mr. James Adam, weaver, Caledonia Street ; the third to Mr. William Robin, weaver, North Street ; and the fourth to Mr. John Wylie, weaver, Ferguslie. The centenary of the society was celebrated at a supper in the Globe Hotel, on 3rd November, 1882. The meeting was well attended. Mr. M'Gechan, president of the society, was in the chair, and narrated its proceedings from the commencement. An assembly followed. On the title page of their minute book, which contains the records of the society from its formation, there is written the motto of the society, taken from Cicero — "There is a wondrous pleasure and delight in the cultivation of flowers." In 1794, there were 42 members, and in 1883 about 100. When the patriotism and loyalty of the nation

was so greatly strained in 1802, this society devoted the whole of the funds they possessed to the purchasing of flannel waistcoats for the Paisley Volunteers. There are other three florist societies, called the Paisley Amateur Florist Society (Charleston), Paisley West-End Amateur Florist Society, and the Scottish Florist Society (Williamsburgh), their chief aim being to encourage the cultivation of flowers in different sections of the town. In Paisley there are, therefore, including the Horticultural Society, no fewer than five societies devoted to the culture of flowers.

The Paisley Horticultural Society—a kindred one to the Florist Society—was established in 1832, and the first general show of flowers, fruits, and vegetables took place in the Saracen's Head Inn, on 12th July in that year. After the distribution of the prizes on that occasion, some of the competitors and members, along with a number of other gentlemen, amounting in all to about fifty, dined in the inn,—Mr. Robert Orr of Lylesland in the chair. This society has a spring and an autumn flower-show every year, the one in March and the other in September, and competitions, with prizes for hyacinths, tulips, crocuses, rhododendrons, greenhouse plants, bouquets, &c. There are always choice displays, too, from the conservatories of various gentlemen in the neighbourhood and from the local nurseries. These exhibitions have in general been very successful, and a society such as this, which has for its object the improving and beautifying which Nature admits of in the productions of the vegetable world by better modes of culture, should meet with every encouragement.

Many of the working-classes also devote much of their spare time to ornithology, and take great delight in the rearing of the different varieties of canaries and other birds. At one time, there was a great number of ornithological clubs in Paisley, but they are now all concentrated in the Paisley Ornithological Association, which was established in 1854, and had its first exhibition on the 2nd December in that year. The exhibitions or "bird shows," as they are generally called, have for a considerable time been held on the first and second days of each year, and they form a powerful and an agreeable attraction at that holiday season. The progress and success of this association have been deservedly great. At the first exhibition in 1854, the number of birds entered was 250, and the prize-money awarded £14 5s. At the exhibition in 1871, they numbered 758, and the prize-money was £75 18s. 6d.; in 1880, there were 1024, and the prize-money £140; and in 1882, the entries for poultry 521, for pigeons 261, and for cage birds 534—in all, 1316 entries, representing upwards of 2500 birds—the prize-money £163 3s. In 1883, the entries had risen to 1457, and the awards of money and special prizes to £180. The entries were—Poultry, 641; pigeons, 229; cage birds, 587;—in all, 1457. This is the greatest number the hall can accommodate. The great success and fame of this association, however, does not consist alone in the large number of birds that are exhibited, but in the value of the high-

class specimens that are brought to their exhibitions from all parts of the kingdom. It is the opinion of those competent to judge that the Paisley exhibition of birds is superior to that held in the Crystal Palace, and to any other in England.

The frequent severe depressions of trade in the town forced many of the weavers of Paisley to think of emigrating to some other country, where they might find employment and the means of support for their families. But not having funds to pay for their self-imposed transportation, they generally formed themselves into societies to enable them the better to attain their end. On 1st June, 1828, Mr. Maxwell, yr. of Pollok, M.P. for Lanarkshire, presented a petition to the House of Commons, signed by 400 unemployed and distressed weavers in Paisley, praying the House to afford the means of emigration to Canada. Mr. Maxwell made a long and eloquent appeal on their behalf. The petition was read, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed, but nothing was done by the Government for the poor petitioners. In 1827, an effort was made with some success to raise funds to assist in emigration; and in 1840-41 societies were formed for the raising of funds to enable families to emigrate to Canada or Australia. Public meetings, under good patronage, were held, and considerable sums of money obtained, the Town Council also giving those wishing to emigrate permission to canvass for subscriptions (*Council Records*, 19th May, 1840). The years 1862, 1863, and 1864 formed another period in which societies were formed with the view of raising the means to promote emigration, and were attended with considerable success. In March, 1863, 120 adults, chiefly handloom weavers, partly assisted by the Colonial Government, left Paisley for Queensland. And in July in the following year, eleven families, numbering sixty-three individuals, left Paisley for Canada. In this case, the men, with one exception, were handloom weavers. The sum of £3 was allowed to each person by the Colonial Government, the remainder required being provided by the emigrants from the subscriptions obtained in the town.

In 1859, the third raising of Volunteer Rifle Corps took place in this country. The unsettled state of European politics, and the firm belief, among all classes, that the Emperor of the French, Napoleon the Third, entertained sinister designs against this country, was the cause of this rushing into arms. The formation of Volunteer corps in this county is thus described in the *Paisley Herald* newspaper of 31st March, 1860, by the editor, Mr. Watson, who was one of the Volunteers at its commencement:—"When the formation of the Volunteer rifle companies was talked of as a means of national defence, Renfrewshire embraced the proposal warmly and enthusiastically as compared with many counties in the kingdom from which more might have been expected. The consequence was that this county occupied the proud position of being

the second in Scotland, being No. 14 on the roll. The "City of Edinburgh," the first Scotch rifle corps enrolled, was No. 11. At first, the Volunteer movement was more lively and active in Greenock than in Paisley, and the first companies enrolled in the county belonged to the former town. The second company was a Paisley one; and then followed, in rapid succession, Pollokshaws, Port-Glasgow, Barrhead, Neilston, Johnstone, Kilbarchan, Thornliebank, Lochwinnoch, Hurlet, Renfrew, Gourrock, and Cathcart. The first meeting held in Paisley with the view of forming a Volunteer corps was on 2nd June, 1859. It was called by Provost Brown, in accordance with the resolution of a county meeting held prior to that date. This meeting was but thinly attended, however, and at the outset it almost appeared as if the movement would prove abortive. A committee was named to ascertain the probable number in the town willing to enrol their names. By the 20th of July, it was reported that fifty-eight Volunteers had consented, and on the 5th of the following month it was resolved to commence drill. The popularity of the movement now rapidly increased. The columns of the press were filled with reports from all parts of the kingdom which related to it; and this, coupled with the active and untiring exertions of those who took a leading share in the management of our local corps, soon attracted an amount of patronage which agreeably disappointed their own anticipations, and effectually silenced those who at the outset were inclined to 'pooh-pooh' the affair altogether. On 26th August, 1859, the first meeting of the corps was held in the Council Chambers—Provost Brown presiding—for the purpose of electing officers to be recommended to the Lord-Lieutenant for appointment, and this meeting gave an additional impulse to the enrolment of Volunteers. Up to this time, there existed much dubiety respecting the mode in which each Volunteer company was to be officered, but it was now made apparent that, so far as this was concerned, the Volunteers were to have it all their own way. The result was, their numbers increased so rapidly that in little more than a fortnight another meeting of the corps was convened for the election of officers for a second company. From that time, the movement continued to progress steadily and regularly."

The Volunteer movement in Paisley has from that time to the present been conducted with great enthusiasm, and is deservedly held in high estimation by the inhabitants. Money was required, and, besides subscriptions, several plans were adopted to obtain it. On 23rd October, 1861, a grand concert, under the patronage of the Provost, Magistrates, and several other gentlemen, took place in the Exchange Rooms, when a considerable sum was realised. To aid the funds, an assembly was held in the Abercorn Rooms, on 2nd March, 1861, and £66 14s. was obtained. For the same purpose, the ladies of Paisley held a bazaar in the Coffee-Room on 28th December in the same year, when they realised the splendid sum of about £1300, which was presented to the Volunteers. In 1865, the commodious

Drill Hall, in the High Street, which is 130 feet long by 50 wide, was erected by public subscription, for the convenience and comfort of the Volunteers and the storage of their arms. This hall, which cost about £2000, was formally opened on 8th December in that year, the occasion being celebrated by a supper and ball and the annual presentation of the prizes. The Newton Woods range has been of the utmost importance to the Volunteers for the practice of rifle shooting, and many of them have become good marksmen. For instance, Sergeant Heiton was the winner of the St. George's Vase at Wimbledon in 1881, and Captain Young was second highest in the competition for the Queen's Prize at the same place, in 1883. The "St. Mirin Wappenschaw" is the resumption of an ancient and popular practice already referred to. The meeting takes place yearly at Newton Woods, and the successful competitors are rewarded with prizes. There are at least two prizes which are competed for, and consist of the ladies' challenge cup and the gold marriage ring. The winner of the cup retains it till the following year. Should the winner of the ring be an unmarried man who gets married during the year, he is allowed to keep it; but should he not be married in the course of the following year, he returns the ring, and pays a forfeit prize besides. The shootings by the competitors are at 200, 500, and 600 yards. The "Reserved Forces" now form, very properly, at public dinners one of the patriotic toasts. The Paisley, or second, battalion of Renfrewshire had in 1883 an enrolled strength of 25 officers, 45 sergeants, and 644 rank and file, being in all 714.

In 1866, when Mr. Hugh Macfarlane was Provost, the Police Commissioners bought the large four-storey tenement, with back buildings, No. 14 Saint Mirin¹ Street, with the view of widening that street, which was then only fifteen feet wide between the line of houses that bounded both sides of the street. A tiny footpath on each side of the street, not exceeding two feet broad, being reserved for passengers, there was barely enough space left for two carts to pass one another. All the houses on the west side of that street were acquired from time to time, and the ground was afterwards sold to different persons, the result being the present handsome range of buildings. In consequence of the judicious purchasing of the different properties, the cost to the ratepayers was only £775. This street was opened in 1871. The improvement of Abbey Close, which afterwards followed, cost the ratepayers £4426 16s. 10d. These were the first two street improvements of any importance by the Commissioners of Police prior to the

¹ The orthography of St. Mirin's name varies considerably. The form "Mirren," which is the Scotch phonetic spelling of the female name, Marion, is very much used. In Tait's Directory for 1783, St. Mirin's Wynd is called St. Marion's Wynd, which is a still worse form. The saint's name in the old Latin deeds is Mirinus, with its oblique cases Mirino and Mirini, and, as Saint Mirin was a man, we think the proper way to spell the word is, dropping the Latin terminations, to write "Mirin."

application for Parliamentary powers to carry out more extensive operations in that way.

In 1876, the Town Council applied to the Legislature for "an Act for improving the Burgh of Paisley, by the construction, widening, and alteration of streets and bridges; for vesting in the Town Council, as Road Trustees of the Burgh, the management of all the streets and bridges therein; for the acquisition of lands for Municipal Buildings, and for other purposes." The Act received the Royal assent on 2nd August, 1877. Powers were taken in this Act for making a new street to connect Albion Street with Caledonia Street, and for widening and improving fourteen different streets; but only four of the latter have as yet (1884) been widened—a part of the north side of High Street, north side of School Wynd, the part of the south side of High Street from the Old Bridge to St. Mirin Street, and west side of St. Mirin Street. The compulsory powers for acquiring properties were restricted to five years, the sum allowed to be borrowed was £80,000, and the maximum assessment to defray the same was 5½d. per £, equally divided between the owner and occupant. At the annual balance on 30th September, 1883, the balance of expenditure over income was £105,232 9s. 10d. This Act also conferred powers on the Burgh Road Trustees to rebuild the three bridges over the river Cart, and levy a maximum assessment of 6½d. per £. The new Abbey Bridge cost £9115; the Sneddon Bridge, £7987; and the Old Bridge, £6322;—in all, £23,424. It may have been observed that when any of these bridges was repaired or rebuilt, the Statute Labour Road Trustees for the County always paid one-third of the expenditure, from an assessment fund authorised by Act of Parliament. In this bill, the Town Council applied for powers to recover from the Renfrewshire Statute Labour Trustees one-third of the cost of rebuilding and maintaining the three bridges in the town. The County Road Trustees objected to the Town Council obtaining such powers, and resolved to petition Parliament against the bill. Although the promoters of the bill stated that they had no intention of extending the obligations of the County Road Trustees as administrators of the bridge fund, and had accordingly limited the same to one-third of the cost of building and repairing the bridges, yet they ultimately withdrew that part of the bill, and also came under an obligation, according to the Act of Parliament, to relinquish any rights they formerly possessed of receiving aid "out of any assessments levied or raised in respect of lands or heritages beyond the burgh for building or upholding bridges or otherwise, any share of the expense of maintaining, repairing, or rebuilding any existing bridges within the burgh, nor any share of the expense of building, maintaining, repairing, or upholding of any new or additional bridge or bridges within the burgh." We think it was a grave mistake on the part of the Town Council to relieve the County Road Trustees of the obligation to contribute towards the cost of rebuilding and repairing the three bridges.

The first of these bridges that was taken down and rebuilt was the Abbey or Seedhills Bridge. Like the one removed, it consisted of three spans. The memorial-stone was laid on 21st October, 1878, by Provost Murray, and the proceedings were commenced by the Rev. Dr. Thomson engaging in prayer. A hermetically sealed jar, containing several coins and documents, was placed by the Provost in a stone prepared for its reception. Mr. J. A. King, Houston, contractor for the mason work, presented a silver trowel to the Provost, who, having spread some mortar with it, and the memorial-stone having been lowered into its proper place, and three strokes having been given with a mallet, declared it to be duly and properly laid. The company invited to be present afterwards repaired to the hall of the new hospital at Bladda, where they were served with cake and wine. Among the toasts given was—"The success and speedy conclusion of the new Abbey Bridge, and the other important improvements connected therewith." This bridge is constructed of iron girders supported on granite piers. Mr. Sharp, the master of works, was the designer of the bridge.

The next bridge that was rebuilt was the Sneddon Bridge, and the memorial-stone was laid by Provost MacKean, on 11th October, 1881. Those invited to be present first met in the Council Chambers, and afterwards proceeded to the bridge. After prayer, offered by the Rev. Mr. Sturrock, Messrs. Morrison & Mason, the contractors for the mason work, presented to the Provost a silver trowel, to be used in laying the memorial-stone, and having on it the names of the Town Councillors, contractors, &c. When the coins and documents had been placed in a bottle and the ceremony was completed, the company returned to the Council Chambers, where they were entertained at a banquet of cake and wine or coffee. A number of toasts were proposed, and speeches delivered suitable to the occasion. The bridge is formed of iron girders, and, like the one taken down, is of a single span. Messrs. Hanna, Donald, & Wilson were the contractors for the iron work, and Mr. Sharp, master of works, was the architect. At this time, the Town Council changed the name from Sneddon Bridge to Abercorn Bridge.

The memorial-stone of the addition to the Old Bridge was laid on 6th October, 1882. The Rev. Mr. Sturrock having opened the proceedings with prayer, Mr. Young, town clerk, deposited a jar containing coins and documents, as in the case of the other two bridges. Messrs. Morrison & Mason, the contractors, presented Provost MacKean with a handsome silver trowel as a remembrance of the day's proceedings. When the memorial-stone had been lowered to its proper place and the usual ceremony gone through, three hearty cheers were given by the assembly, and the bells in the tower of the George A. Clark Hall rang out a joyous peal in honour of the event. The company invited afterwards adjourned to the Picture Gallery of the Town Hall, where cake and wine were partaken of, and several appropriate speeches delivered. The old stone arches of the bridge were not removed, but only enlarged. Mr.

Linn, of Belfast, architect of the George A. Clark Town Hall, was also architect of the bridge, and he carefully made its design and style to conform with those of the hall, which closely adjoins. The Council, at a special meeting held before the laying of the memorial-stone, agreed to change the name of this bridge from "Old Bridge," by which it had been long known, to that of "Saint James Bridge." In the charter of King James VI., of 16th January, 1598, already given, this bridge is called the "Bridge of Paisley." If the name had to be changed, it would surely have been more appropriate to call it "The Paisley Bridge," instead of giving it the comparatively unmeaning title of Saint James Bridge.¹

Not much was done to improve the sanitary condition of the town, in so far at anyrate as the important operations of drainage was concerned, till 1879. The efforts of the public authorities in that direction had, down till that time, been very partial, and not according to any defined general plan. Some years ago, the attention of the inhabitants was directed, by the reports of the Registrar-General, to the high death-rate in Paisley as compared with some other towns. The death-rate of the eight large towns in Scotland has been published since 1855. The following table, showing the average general death-rate of each of the three years 1855, 1856, 1857, and thereafter of four consecutive periods of five years, is taken from the reports of the Registrar-General for Scotland. The rates are calculated as per 1000 living of the population :—

	1855-57.	1858-62.	1863-67.	1868-72.	1873-77.
Glasgow,.....	29·7	29·3	30·9	31·0	27·8
Edinburgh,	24·4	24·6	25·8	25·9	22·1
Dundee,.....	26·4	27·6	28·8	27·8	24·1
Aberdeen,.....	22·9	24·7	25·0	22·6	21·7
Greenock,	31·5	28·7	33·7	29·4	27·3
Paisley,	26·9	26·4	28·3	28·4	28·6
Leith,.....	21·7	22·9	23·7	24·5	22·2
Perth,	24·9	24·9	25·3	23·4	24·3

The following is the child death-rate per 1000 living, under five years of age, at two periods of five years :—

	1868-72.	1873-77.	Decrease.	Per Centage of Decrease.
Glasgow,	107·5	92·4	15·1	14
Edinburgh,.....	81·2	64·8	16·4	20
Dundee,.....	96·4	80·5	15·9	16½
Aberdeen,.....	64·1	54·0	10·1	16
Greenock,	101·0	81·2	19·8	19
Paisley,	80·6	76·3	4·3	5
Leith,	81·7	66·2	5·5	7
Perth,	56·8	62·2	5·4	9½

¹ This new name was not agreed to unanimously. Several others were proposed. There were only eleven Councillors present at the time, and they voted as follows :—That the bridge should be called "The High Street Bridge," 2 ;

It will thus be seen that Paisley shows the lowest per centage of improvement.

Although the death-rate in Paisley appears from these returns to be very high as compared with the other towns in Scotland, it was undoubtedly too highly stated for some years after 1871. That arose in this way—At the census of 1871, the population of Paisley was 48,257, while in 1881 it had increased to 55,638. As the death-rate between 1871 and 1881 was calculated according to the census of 1871, the statement given was not correct.

Those residing in George Street, in looking about for the cause of the high death-rate in that locality, came to discover that the St. Mirin Burn and its tributaries, forming the only drainage of that district, were loaded with putrid and unhealthy matter. Being satisfied that herein lay much of the cause of the unhealthiness of their district, the inhabitants induced the Council—after overcoming some difficulties that were in the way—to have it thoroughly drained. A new conduit, of considerable size and depth, was formed in place of St. Mirin's Burn, and sewers were formed in the different streets. The Commissioners of Police borrowed £10,000 from the Board of Public Works for the completion of this important undertaking, which was called District No. 1. The inauguration of the formation of these drains took place on the 16th October, 1879. The members of Council met in the Council Chambers, and afterwards proceeded to Cumberland Court. Mr. Peter Quin, the contractor for the drains, presented to Bailie Eaglesim, as convener of the Drainage Committee, a silver trowel, on which there was a suitable inscription, together with the names of the members of the committee. Mr. Eaglesim then went through the ceremony of laying the first brick of the main sewer, and afterwards briefly expressed his pleasure that something was about to be done to reduce the high death-rate of the town. The owners of the different properties, at their own expense, afterwards connected the back courts, by means of drains, with the street sewers. Four years afterwards, the drainage of the New Town, on the east side of the river, was commenced and completed, and £6500 was borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board to accomplish this. The drainage works of the New Town, or District No. 2, were inaugurated on 16th March, 1883, by the laying of the first brick of the main sewer at the outfall into the Cart near to Laighpark. The Rev. Mr. Paterson having invoked the Divine blessing on the works, Mr. John Sharp, the contractor for the undertaking, presented Provost Clark with a silver trowel, as a memorial of the occasion. The Provost went through the ceremony of laying the first brick, and afterwards addressed those present.

In 1877, an Act of Parliament was passed, conferring on the

"Saint James," 3; "Saint Mirin," 4; "Victoria," 2; and, in the final voting, 7 voted that it should be called "Saint James Bridge" and 4 "Saint Mirin Bridge" (*Council Records*, 6th October, 1882).

Government powers to centralize the prison system in England and Scotland, and to discontinue certain prisons not enumerated in the Act. The Commissioners of Supply for the County of Renfrew and the Town Council of Paisley received a letter from the Secretary of the Prison Commissioners of Scotland, dated 9th July, 1883, containing copies of the following orders and rules by the Secretary of State for the Home Department :— 1st Order—Discontinuing the Prison of Paisley on and after 15th August, 1883 ; 2nd Rule—Appointing the Prison of Glasgow as a legal prison for the detention of such prisoners as might have been lawfully confined in the prison so discontinued had it remained in existence as a legal prison ; 3rd Rule—Reconstituting the Visiting Committee of the Prison of Glasgow. The receipt of this communication came upon every one in Paisley and neighbourhood with the greatest surprise. The Commissioners of Supply held a special meeting on the 24th of that month to consider what steps should be taken regarding this extraordinary resolution, and they unanimously agreed to forward a representation to Sir William Harcourt, the Home Secretary, protesting in effect against the carrying out of this uncalled-for and foolish decision, and suggesting that this Order should be recalled or at anyrate suspended, to see if a better arrangement could be effected for the public interest. From this spirited and able memorial, prepared by Mr. Caldwell, clerk of supply, we take the following extracts :—

“That until receipt of said letter, your memorialists had not heard anything whatever of the intention of discontinuing the Prison of Paisley, and, so far as they can ascertain, such also was the case with the other County as well as the Burgh Authorities. That the Prison of Paisley is large and commodious and well adapted for the purpose for which it has been applied. In the Sheriff's report to the General Prison Board in 1841, it was described as ‘sufficient and capable of admitting of the separate system.’ About the year 1850, extensive alterations and additions were made on the buildings ; and in the official report to the General Prison Board, in 1854, it was stated that ‘the liberality of the Local Authorities had enabled this important prison to be placed on a most satisfactory footing,’ and that ‘this well-planned and constituted prison affords ample accommodation for all classes of prisoners on the separate system.’ In subsequent official reports, the efficiency and importance of the Prison of Paisley was unequivocally recognised ; and your memorialists have reason to believe that, as regards the health of the prisoners, no objection could be urged either as to its situation or sanitary arrangements. That the present population of Paisley is believed to be about 60,000, and it is rapidly increasing. There are also in its immediate neighbourhood the burghs of Renfrew and Johnstone, and the villages of Hurler, Nitshill, Elderslie, Quarrelton, Barrhead, Grahamston, Neilston, Lochwinnoch, Howwood, Kilbarchan, Bridge of Weir, Linwood, Houston, and Bishopton, with an aggregate population of about

40,000, employed in manufactures, mines, and public undertakings, and having their natural centre in Paisley. This is altogether irrespective of the large populous places in the eastern portions of the county, which may be said to be conveniently contiguous to Glasgow. That your memorialists believe that in such circumstances the discontinuing of the Prison of Paisley will greatly weaken the power of the authorities who are responsible for the preservation of the public peace and the repression of crime ; while the transmission of prisoners to and from the substituted Prison of Glasgow, situated about eight miles from Paisley, will add to the risk of prisoners escaping or communicating with their associates in crime, and to the current expenses, necessitating as it will do the appointment of additional constables to be employed in escorting prisoners, who, after being taken from Paisley to the prison at Glasgow for further examination or to await their trial, will often have to be brought back to Paisley for examination or to be identified by witnesses. That these transmissions would have to be by railway, and prisoners would thus have to be taken upon railway platforms, often much crowded, and along the equally crowded streets of Glasgow ; and their frequent, and indeed daily, appearance in this way would, by familiarising the public with the sight, have a demoralising effect. That while there may be cases in which it is of public advantage to close small prisons, your memorialists believe there is no other instance in Scotland where a large county prison like that of Paisley, situate in the midst of an exceptionally large population, has been discontinued ; and they conceive they were entitled to expect that some communication would have been made to them and the other County Authorities to elicit their views on the proposal before so important a step was taken. That your memorialists are aware of the provisions under 'The Prisons (Scotland) Act of 1877,' by which police cells may be legalised for the detention of prisoners before or during or after trial for any period not exceeding fourteen days. After due consideration, however, they cannot see their way to recommend the Commissioners of Supply or the Police Committee to act on this provision. The county and burgh had already provided a sufficient prison, at a cost of from £30,000 to £40,000, which had been taken possession of by Government, and it seems unreasonable to expect the county to expend a further sum on this account. Besides, to provide legalised cells would entail considerable additional current expense on the county, for the Prison Commissioners' allowance of one shilling per day and night of twenty-four hours would not meet the cost of providing food, heating, lighting of the cells or prisons, and still less the wages of a governor and matron and possible contingencies. Your memorialists, too, consider that the proper duty of a police force is, as far as possible, to prevent the commission of crimes and offences and to bring the criminals and offenders to the Court, and that thereafter the care of the accused devolves on the ordinary prison authorities. In ordinary circumstances, the discontinuing of the Prison of

Paisley would certainly lead to great inconvenience to those entrusted with the administration of the laws ; but if a riot or serious breach of the public peace were to occur in Paisley or its neighbourhood, the authorities might find it impossible satisfactorily to discharge the duties usually expected of them. Should such unfortunately be the case, your memorialists respectfully but firmly protest that the responsibility of the failure to maintain the majesty of the law will in no degree be attributable to the local authorities."

This memorial was supported by a deputation consisting of Mr. Caldwell, clerk of supply, on behalf of the county, and by Provost Clark on behalf of the town. We understand, however, that the intimation of the order to shut up the prison was never brought before the Council, and that they did not memorialise the Home Secretary against its discontinuance. On the 29th of this month, the deputation was introduced to Sir William Harcourt by Mr. Crum, M.P. We give the following graphic description of this interview, which appeared in the *Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette* newspaper of 4th August following :—

"One of the reasons assigned by Sir William Harcourt for the discontinuance of the prison was that it was situated in a densely-populated district of the town, and close to a foul river. To this it was replied that, if the river were foul, that was not because it was polluted with sewage and unhealthy refuse, but blackened by the outpourings from dyeworks in and above the town. That it was not recognised as productive of ill-health, might be gathered from the fact that the infirmary of the town was, without any one ever having said that it was on an unhealthy site, built quite as close to the river, not far from the prison, while the death-rate of the prison compared favourably with that of any other prison in Scotland. Another reason assigned had regard to structural defects. To this it was replied that when Government got the prison into their own hands £3800 had been obtained from the County Authorities as the sum required to put the prison into a proper state of repair, and that it was scarcely fair to retain the money and leave the defects unremedied and then urge the defects as a reason for discontinuing the prison. The Home Secretary instanced Dumbarton as a place where the prison had been suppressed without any complaint. To this it was replied that Dumbarton had a comparatively small population, and was situated twenty miles from Glasgow, and ought not to be compared with Paisley, that had a population of 60,000, with 50,000 more in its neighbourhood, and was, besides, so close to Glasgow as to be within easy reach and subject to the depredations of the criminal classes of that city. The conveyance of prisoners to and from Glasgow on remand would be most undesirable. Were it proposed to convey prisoners along the crowded streets of London, the citizens would not submit to it for a day ; and yet the Strand of that city was not more crowded than were the streets of Glasgow, along which prisoners would require to be taken

daily. Sir William then remarked that he was merely carrying out, as he was bound to do, an Act that had been passed by the late Government; but the deputation replied that it was not the Act, but the way in which it was being carried out, that they complained of, as it was never expected it would be applied to close a large county prison like Paisley. To this Sir William answered that the matter was done, and could not be altered. The deputation then withdrew, thanking Sir William for receiving them, but feeling that no valid reason had been given for closing the prison."

If the Government of Mr. Disraeli had been the means, as erroneously stated by Sir W. Harcourt, of causing Paisley Prison to be discontinued, the absurdity and folly of such an order were equally to be condemned on their part and on that of the succeeding Government of Mr. Gladstone. But they committed no such act. All they did was to pass a law giving powers to shut up small prisons; but it was never contemplated by the promoters of the measure, or understood in the country, that important and valuable county prisons such as that of Paisley would be closed in obedience to a false economy and in defiance of public convenience.

In 1878, the Commissioners of Police, who had previously acquired the public shambles from the Town Council at an annual charge of £213 13s. 7d., obtained, on application, from the Home Secretary a Provisional Order to have them constituted a public Trust, with powers to borrow £4500 in order to extend and improve their accommodation. Within three years thereafter, the shambles were greatly enlarged, and made to combine every modern improvement, with a perfect system of drainage, at an expense of £6300. The internal arrangements are now so complete, and the whole place so free from offensive smells, that strangers passing it would not take it to be a public shambles. The following statement shows the number of animals slaughtered during the years 1881, 1882, and 1883, along with the dead meat brought into Paisley during these years:—

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Pigs.	Fed Calves.	Small Calves.	TOTALS.
Year ending 18th June, 1881, Dead meat during same period, ¹	5347 662	9348 970	5008 1205	468 141	— —	41 3316	20,212 6,294
Totals,.....	6009	10,318	6213	609	—	3357	26,506
Year ending 30th Sept., 1882, Dead meat during same period,	6557 356	9109 638	5261 398	784 112	2 52	16 2778	21,729 4,334
Totals,.....	6913	9747	5659	896	54	2794	26,063
Year ending 29th Sept., 1883, Dead meat during same period,	4709 1745	5654 921	4022 261	1278 141	4 49	5 1957	15,672 5,074
Totals,.....	6454	6575	4283	1419	53	1962	20,746

¹ The dead meat brought into town is charged the same dues as if the cattle, &c., had been slaughtered in the Shambles in Paisley.

In addition to the markets for cows and horses at the Fairs held at Paisley in May and August, there is at present, and has been for several years, a weekly cattle market. It is held on Mondays, and a large amount of business is always done in all kinds of cattle, including sheep and pigs. Mr. Robert Wilson, auctioneer and live stock agent, has the credit of establishing this important market, which is alike convenient for sellers and purchasers. The entrance to the sale-yard is at No. 13 Storie Street.

Paisley, we believe, is no exception to the general rule of having a full share of odd public characters. We shall notice some of those that appeared during the nineteenth century; and, although their portraits—of which we have nearly all—would better indicate their appearance and character than any description of ours, yet we are compelled, from several considerations, to omit them.

We have before us a lithographed portrait, by Neilson, of “Daft Sandy,” of whom we have learned but little. Some one has written in pencil on the margin, “A well-known Paisley character in 1805,” and also, “I’m daft; man, gie’s a bawbee,” being an expression used by him when soliciting aid. We have been told by an old residenter in Paisley that Sandy lived in Saucel, and was in the habit of expressing himself as above at the Cross to passengers departing and arriving by the public coaches.

Johnnie Luske was known all over the town from Cowieston to Corslets, but his principal rendezvous was in the old Flesh Market in Moss Street. He was not an idiot, and, although he could neither read nor write his own name, yet, when led into conversation, he exhibited an amount of intelligence beyond expectation. In his youth, he was a member of the Dumbartonshire Fencibles; but the greater part of his after life was spent as a retainer of the Flesh Market, where he was ever on the alert to execute whatever missions were given to him from any quarter of the town. On one occasion, when a rumour was in circulation that the market was to be pulled down and rebuilt in a more convenient place, Johnnie wept tears of bitter sorrow. “What for,” said he, “would they ding doun the market, when it had stood sae lang. They ha’e bigget a new jail to put puir folk intil, when the auld ane was gude aneugh, and mony a drap o’ porter I ha’e got in’t, but I daurna’ gang to the new ane noo.” But it would be wrong to say that he had no amusement except in the market. He had his hours of relaxation and enjoyment besides, and at times he was a willing votary of Bacchus. Johnnie was a frequent visitor in the “houff” of the old jail, where he might be seen carefully collecting the drippings of the porter bottles, and regaling himself with what—to use his own expression—“the wastrie of others had left.” But he became gloomy and dispirited, sank into imbecility, and died (*The Tickler*, published in 1827).

Another of the well-known street characters was Daunie Weir. He was born in Charleston district in 1813. At six years of age

he was sent to school, and remained there till he was twelve, when his father, who was a weaver, made him a drawboy. He afterwards became a weaver, and continued to be so till he was thirty years of age. In 1842—the period of severe depression in the weaving trade—he was compelled to give it up, and he commenced the selling of chap books. At one time, Daunie thought he would make a good precentor, but others did not seem to think so, for, although he stood as a candidate at all the different vacancies that occurred, he was always unsuccessful. He once preached a sermon. Coming from Sneddon, where he resided, to Jail Square, a number of years ago, he found a man preaching to a miscellaneous crowd. After waiting till the preacher had brought his services to a close, he ascended to the same elevated position and addressed the crowd, who increased in numbers. They laughed and made a great noise, so much so that the police interfered and took him to the Police Office because he was causing a breach of the peace. Daunie was thought to be somewhat crazed, but there was a method in his madness. He was of sober habits, and wandered harmlessly through the streets reciting and selling his favourite poem, “Watty and Meg,” along with other street literature, for upwards of thirty years. His voice and appearance were known to every one, and he hobbled along the streets in every kind of weather. Some gentlemen in the town for several years subscribed money, which was given to the Captain of Police, to be handed over to Daunie at certain periods. He died on 21st January, 1879, after a few days’ illness.

Jamie Gemmell, who was a tailor to trade, was another “character” well known on the streets of Paisley about the end of the first quarter of this century and during several years thereafter. He was at times very dissipated, and when tipsy would for a halfpenny from anyone show the tailor’s leap, which consisted in throwing himself up and falling with great force, so as to sit squat on the causey. Mr. James Paterson, in his memoir of James Fillans, sculptor, page 24, states that “two groups modelled for Mr. Dick, bookseller, became very popular. These were Wilson’s ‘Watty and Meg’ and Jamie Gemmell, a well-known Paisley character, borne helplessly along between two policemen.” This was about the end of the first quarter of this century. An elegy on Jamie Gemmell, tailor, by Mr. John Andrews, bookseller, Paisley, was published about 1842. It appeared as a Paisley chap book, with a rough illustration on the first page, which, however, had no reference to Jamie Gemmell. One of the verses in that elegy was—

“ Nae mair about the corss ye’ll see him,
 Nae mair a bawbee will ye gi’e him,
 Nae mair his hat he’ll gar flee frae him
 Upon the street,
 An’ cry, ‘Noo, Jamie Gemmell, gi’e them
 The tailor’s leap ! ’ ”

Mr. Motherwell, in his notes on Renfrewshire characters and scenery, gives some account of Andrew Lindsay, who was truly an interesting character. Somewhat abridged, it is as follows :—Andrew is a man of genius, and, what is better, he is a man of sterling worth ; he has been all his lifetime temperate, contented, and cheerful. He lost his sight, we believe, in infancy, by smallpox. For his station in life, he received a good education, but he was obliged to betake himself to that common refuge of blind men—the profession of a musician. He for many years played the first fiddle at all the assemblies, balls, &c., in and around Paisley. If we cannot call Andrew a learned, yet he was certainly an accomplished man, for he made considerable proficiency in the French, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages, and has, we believe, taught all of them. Except the Latin (for Andrew attended the Grammar School of this town), he mastered these almost solely by his own unaided exertions. The want of a tutor or friend to give him the sounds of the various words and letters was not the least of his misfortunes. This difficulty he sought to remove in a curious way. He managed to teach his mother—an uneducated woman, and at the time pretty far advanced in life—to pronounce all the languages with which he sought an acquaintance, not excepting Greek and Hebrew. Andrew used to be a keen florist, and sometimes walked many miles to see, as he expressed it, a single fine flower. A gentleman informed us that at a private dance which he attended a number of years ago, and when Andrew was the sole minstrel, on one of the reels being lengthened out considerably beyond the ordinary time, the usual signals for stopping the music were given once and again, but to no purpose. Seeing that the musician would take no common hint, the dancers tried the broader one of ceasing to dance, but, to the astonishment of the whole party, the music still went on correctly and spiritedly too. Upon going up to Andrew to ascertain the cause of this extraordinary conduct, he was found fast asleep, and in that state he must have been playing for at least five or seven minutes, perhaps much longer. At the time Mr. Motherwell published this book (1824), Andrew was above seventy years of age, and unable to use the violin. He was in a very destitute state, and dependent on his friends for support.

Although Hugh Shaw in his later years did not live in Paisley, but at Elderslie, he was so much identified with this town that we think it proper to take some notice of him. He was a native of Wigtonshire, was born on 16th August, 1713, and died on 22nd July, 1826, being then very nearly 114 years of age. He came to Paisley when young, and, after working at the weaving trade for some time, he enlisted in 1739 with the “Young Buffs,” afterwards called the 33rd Regiment. In the following year, he went with his regiment to Flanders, and was at the battles of Dettingen, Fontenoy, and Tournay. When he returned to Scotland, he served under the Duke of Cumberland at the memorable battle of Culloden, in 1746. He was afterwards with his regiment in Asia and America, and,

being discharged prior to the establishment of the Chelsea Fund, he received no pension. When he left the army, he resided at Elderslie, and worked at his trade of a weaver as long as he was able, and afterwards begged for money to support himself. Every Saturday so long as he was able, he came to Paisley, with a staff in his hand, and a label on his hat stating his age, and solicited alms, commencing at the west end of the town and ending at the east end of the New Town. He called only on those who lived in dwellings on the ground floor, and he was generally well received. What farthings he received were mostly those issued by Mr. Jervis Coats, hamcurer, Broomlands, and always on returning home he called on Mr. Coats to get them exchanged for the current coin of the realm. When he became unable to travel, he was supported by a few friends. At the time of his death, the 42nd Regiment were in Paisley Barracks, and all the officers and soldiers turned out to do military honours at his interment on 26th July. The crowd of spectators who witnessed the funeral passing down High Street to the Abbey burying-ground was immense, numbering no less than 10,000 persons. Hugh Shaw was twice married, and outlived, with the exception of his second wife, all his children and relations.

Willie Love, another well-known character in Paisley, supported himself by hawking small wares about the country. He latterly lived by himself in a small apartment in Castle Street. Willie was a harmless, half-witted person, and was the butt of many a jest. His characteristic weakness was a readiness to believe anything, no matter how absurd, which seemed to him a personal compliment. Willie was particularly weak in relation to the fair sex, and he would never weary of any amount of nonsense in which he was made to figure as the object of some female's affection. About a year before his death, he advertised for a wife, and was very particular in stating the qualities he looked for in her. He received a number of replies to his advertisement, but whether they were genuine was never discovered. Willie used to make long tours about the country selling his wares, and was often absent from Paisley for weeks at a time. About two years before he died, he paid a visit to America, some said to get a wife, though he was never communicative on that subject. Willie had conceived a notion that he bore a strong resemblance to Prince Albert, and set out on one occasion for the purpose of visiting the Queen at Windsor; but his journey to the English metropolis was one of the subjects on which he was very reticent. In *The Seestu Cynic* of 22nd October, 1853, it was stated that, at an imaginary ward meeting, "William Love, Esq., itinerant merchant," was nominated to represent the ward at the Council Board. Willie summoned Messrs. Macgregor and M'Arthur to the Sheriff Court, concluding for damages of £8 6s. 8d. for injury to his feelings. Mr. Macgregor assumed any responsibility which might attach to the publication of the article, and the Sheriff awarded Willie ten shillings for his wounded feelings, with expenses. In August, 1857, his autobiography was published, setting forth his

travels, with illustrated caricature of himself. It consisted of fifty-six pages.¹ He was very proud of the book, and, in the simplicity of his nature, regarded the clever burlesque as a serious history. A large number of copies was printed, and Willie, it was believed, realised a handsome sum by the hawking of the book. He sent a copy to the Queen, and received a respectful note from official headquarters informing him that his book had been graciously accepted. Willie was admitted to the Infirmary on 24th November, 1868, suffering from bronchitis, and he died within four weeks thereafter.

Thomas Donald, who was nicknamed the "Duck," or, more frequently the "Juck," from his having very large broad feet and a waddling gait, was another character well known, not only in Paisley, but in many of the villages in the West of Scotland. Having received a pretty good education, he became a pattern designer. He too often indulged in drinking a super-abundance of whisky. His intellect thereby was sadly injured, and he often acted in a most foolish manner. He was of a lively disposition, and naturally possessed considerable abilities in writing very tasteful ornamental tickets for placing on goods in shop windows. In this way, he made a good deal of money—as much, indeed, as might have supported him decently, had he been prudent. By his irregular habits, he destroyed his constitution, and he died, early in life, in the Burgh Poorhouse, on 24th August, 1872.

Another of the notorious street characters was William M'Allister, known almost solely by the name of the "Charleston Puddock." He was a chimney sweeper, and, falling from the roof of the old Bishopton Inn, his body was injured and became deformed. His uncouth, short figure, leaning upon his staff, and accompanied by his favourite dog, Jess, gave him a most peculiar appearance. He was very dissipated, and died in the Abbey Poorhouse on 31st June, 1883. For many years in later life, he subsisted on charity, except when in prison or the poorhouse, from which places, however, he was seldom absent. On seventy-two occasions between 1869 and 1879, he was apprehended for being drunk and incapable, but he was always liberated whenever he became sober. For breach of the peace, he was seventeen times convicted and sent to prison, undergoing confinement for 508 days. When not in prison for misdemeanours, he frequently used a cell in the Police Office as his bed.

In February, 1870, the "Duck" and the "Puddock" were both undergoing sentence in the prison for being drunk and disorderly and causing a breach of the peace. James Menzies, or "Hungry Jamie," as he was called, another similar street character, who had been drinking and had become boisterous in Moss Street, was taken to the Police Office. When placed at the bar of the Police Court,

¹ The author of this able and amusing book is understood to have been the late Mr. John Guy, writer.

he besought the Magistrate to let him go this once, as it was a long time since he had been there before, and it would be a long time before he would be there again ; but he was sentenced to undergo thirty days' imprisonment. In leaving the Court, Jamie said—"By Jove! this is a fine go. Here's the 'Puddock,' the 'Duck,' and myself all in dumpy, and what will the toun do without us?" Jamie's career had been quite as notorious as that of the other two. Before November, 1861, he had been in custody twenty-one times for breach of the peace, and had suffered 398 days' imprisonment in periods ranging from seven to sixty days. Between August, 1862, and May, 1869, Jamie had also been eight times charged with being drunk and incapable, or with begging, malicious mischief, or contravention of law, and had been in prison for 120 days. He had also been seven times admonished and dismissed. On 15th April, 1872, he was apprehended for breach of the peace, and, on promising to the presiding Magistrate that he would go to the poorhouse, he was admonished and dismissed. He went to the poorhouse, and remained there till he died.

William Brodie, or "Heather Jock," who was well known in all the towns and villages in the West of Scotland, was born in Paisley about the beginning of the nineteenth century, and was baptised in the High Church. His first employment was as a drawboy, and afterwards, while working as a weaver, he married. He left the High Church, and joined the Methodist body. One of the members supplied him with goods, and he started as a packman. But being of a simple disposition, he gave too much credit, and therefore did not succeed in his packman business. Not finding employment in Paisley, he went to reside in Bridge of Weir, and about 1840 commenced to sing throughout the country. To attract attention, he assumed a very comical head-dress, by ornamenting his bonnet with bells, feathers, and heather. He also carried a staff, which had fixed to its head a weapon of the shape of a battle-axe, surrounded with bells. "Heather Jock"—for that was the only name he was known by—visited all the populous places in the west, and was present at every fair. The song he most frequently sang was "Bonnie Annie Lawrie." The boys were delighted with him when he sang this song, and, forming themselves into a ring, danced around him. If the streets were dry, he and they would throw themselves down when he came to the touching words, "For bonnie Annie Lawrie I would lay me doon and dee." Another song he often sang was "Heather Jock," which, no doubt, had suggested his head-dress and originated his nickname. When engaged in singing this song, a group of boys held on by his coat tails, and, forming a ring, danced along with him, the bells on his head and staff making a noisy accompaniment to the song. The author of this song is unknown, but it was composed long before he sang it, being a travesty on the popular song, "Donald Caird's come again," by Sir Walter Scott. Largs was one of his favourite haunts, and often, although he had been singing there all day, he would

travel home, no matter how far on in the following morning it might be ere he arrived. "Heather Jock" was good natured, and very temperate in his habits, and, when offered any spirits, he would say, "Gi'e me the price o't, an' I'll tak' it when I want it." His family, which consisted of two sons and one daughter, becoming ashamed of his leading this vagrant and fantastic life, set him up in business as a packman, and in the disposing of small wares he supported himself till 1883, when the old man, who is above eighty years of age, was laid up. The daughter, in whose house he lives, nurses him.

Local coins have not been numerous in Paisley. Mr. David Murray, of Messrs. Maclay, Murray, & Spens, Glasgow, at a meeting of the Glasgow Archæological Society held on 16th February, 1882, in a paper on some Glasgow and other provincial coins and tokens, stated that "there are not many Scotch penny pieces, but one of the most beautiful is the Paisley penny of 1798."



PAISLEY PENNY.

The obverse represents a mitred abbot with a pastoral staff between two shields and a third in base. The abbot is Abbot George Schaw, founder of the burgh. The shield in base bears the arms of Schaw, viz., three covered cups. The shield on the dexter side contains the arms of Stewart, fess cheque. On the rim is, "Paisley Penny. Arms 1798. P. K. Sculpsit. R. Boog, Jun., Des."¹ On the reverse of this penny is the interior of the Abbey and the same inscription as on the medal of 1788, which has been already noticed. The view of it we were enabled to give through the kindness of Mr. Murray, the owner of one of these rare and beautiful medals. The following is a view of it taken from an illustration in Mr. Murray's paper. So far as we can ascertain, this penny was never in circulation.

Mr. David Murray states that three different farthings have been circulated in Paisley. One of them had on the obverse "J. Coats & Son, 38 Broomlands," which at present is No. 14 Broomlands. On the reverse was "Ham Curers and Grocers, Paisley," with the figure of a ham pendant. Annexed are views of the two sides of this farthing.



The second farthing, Mr. Murray states, had on the obverse a roll of

¹ P. K. appears to be the initials of the engraver of the medal, and R. Boog, jun., designed it.

tobacco with three leaves, circumscribed "Peter Taylor, Tobacconist;"



and on the reverse two tobacco pipes in saltire, and this circumscription, "215 High Street, Paisley." We give drawings of this farthing.



Mr. Murray said — "The only drawing I have of the third farthing is so worn as to be illegible. The word 'Paisley' is, however, quite distinct across the middle of the piece, which shows it to be different from the other two, in which that word is in the base" (*Printed Transactions of the Glasgow Archaeological Society*, New Series, vol. i., part i., p. 70).

Paisley, like every other burgh of importance, has its common seal. It is almost the same as the representation we have given of the Paisley penny. Abbot George Schaw is shown standing on a shield, with three covered cups, the arms of Schaw; on the right side is a shield with fess cheque; on the left, a shield with roses in chief, and an escallop shell in base, with a tree behind eradiated and fructed; and around the margin, in Roman capitals, "Sigillum. Commune. Burghi. De. Paisley."



It would appear that the Paisley penny not having been put into circulation, its beautiful and chaste design was, about 1798, adopted as the common seal of the Burgh of Paisley. The late Mr. David Semple states in his "St. Mirin," p. 22, without giving any proof, that the present seal or coat of arms of the burgh "must have been adopted since 1784."¹

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE
BURGH OF PAISLEY.

The old motto of Paisley is — "Lord, let Paisley flourish through the preaching of Thy Word" (*Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. vii., p. 181). This is the inscription on the communion silver cups, of date 1748, used in the Low Parish Church, and afterwards in St. George's Church; and the same inscription is on the communion silver cups, of date 1758, used in the High Church.

There are two angling clubs in Paisley. Several of the inhabitants enjoy themselves on "glassy lake or murm'ring brook" in this

¹ This seal of the Burgh must not be confounded with the Paisley coat-of-arms already referred to in Vol. I, pages 220, 245, and 248. The act of the Town Council of 13th May, 1620, establishing the horse race, leaves no doubt what really is the Paisley coat-of-arms; for after describing the starting of the horse at the "grey stane callit St. Convall's," the "horse and maister yairof that first come to the scoir at Wallneuk of Paisley sall have the said bells with the burgess airmes yairupon for that zeir." They are on the largest bell.

sport, which, besides being a healthful and fascinating recreation, calls into active exercise the mental faculties. Shortly after Stanely Reservoir was constructed, a number of gentlemen formed themselves into a club, which they called the Walton Fishing Club, and leased from the Water Commissioners the exclusive right to fish in that beautiful sheet of water. It was stocked with trout, and this club continues to hold the privilege of fishing there. The club pays to the Water Commissioners an annual rent of £10. When the Rowbank Reservoir was formed, a club was instituted under the name of the Rowbank Angling Club. They likewise possess the exclusive privilege of fishing in the reservoir, and pay annually £20 of rent. When the Glenburn Reservoir was constructed in 1881, and connected with the water supply of the town on 26th September, 1881, the Rowbank Club also leased the exclusive right of fishing in it from the Water Commissioners, at an annual rent of £7 7s. The rules and regulations of the club were agreed to at a special meeting of the members held on 10th October, 1870. Some of them may be worth noting. One is that each member shall receive twelve tickets allowing him to fish that number of times during the season. Another rule is that "no fishing shall be allowed except with the single rod and single line from the banks; the net, otter, boat, double rod, and set lines, or any other contrivance being prohibited. Small fish to be returned to the water. Night fishing expressly prohibited." This club is still in active operation, and many of the members are skilful and successful anglers.¹

In the second decade of the last half of this century, public swimming and other baths were erected by subscription. The building is situated near to the Priorscroft Bowling Green, and the entry to it is from Storie Street. Graded charges are made for the use of the different baths.

In 1875 a skating club was instituted. The skating pond is situated on the plateau of the Hunterhill farm, a little to the south of the place where the farm steading stood, and is called Lochfield. The ground is leased from Sir M. R. S. Stewart, the proprietor; and

¹ "On 23rd May, 1883, the National Angling Club competition took place on Loch Leven. There were thirty-six competitors. A stiff westerly gale blew all day, rendering fishing very arduous. Mr. Robert Harris, East Greenlaw, Paisley, a member of the Rowbank Angling Club, Paisley, gained the first prize of £12 and the championship with seventeen trout, weighing 13lb. 11½oz. Mr. Charles Allan, Stirling, was second. Mr. Harris, who secured the coveted honour of first place, found his happy hunting-ground near Gairmymouth, on the south shore; and his best flies were red and teal and green and teal. On 3rd September in the same year, the angling championship of Loch Leven, with four guineas added by Sir G. Graham Montgomery, was competed for. There were eighteen competitors, of whom fifteen reported their takes. Mr. Robert Harris, East Greenlaw, Paisley, had the largest take — eight trout, weighing 9lb. 10½oz. — and he was therefore declared the winner of the championship. The weather was cloudy, and there was very little wind all day" (*Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette*).

the pond is formed on the same principle as the curling dam at Corsebar. The pond is filled with water, which is very shallow, at the commencement of winter, and let off in spring. The subscribers to the formation of the dam are charged 3s. for a winter's use of it, and non-subscribers, 5s. One drawback to this place of amusement is that it is rather far from the town.

In 1880 the temperance body known in the town by the name of Good Templars erected a hall in Dyers' Wynd, with an entrance also from Christie's Terrace at the Old Bridge. The first lodge of this body, which had originated in America about thirty years previously, was formed in this town on 26th January, 1870, with only twelve members. Their numbers increased rapidly, and in four years they had fourteen lodges and about 1400 members. Not having a proper place to meet in, they were put to great inconvenience; and in May, 1874, they resolved, with the support of those who took a warm interest in temperance, to erect a building for themselves. One of the means used to raise funds was a bazaar, which was opened in the Drill Hall on 23rd December, 1874, when a clear sum of £1152 11s. 3d. was realised. There were seven stalls, and at each was a large flag in the centre, bearing a motto. These were as follows:—No. 1 Stall, "God is our Refuge;" No. 2, "Legal and Moral Suasion;" No. 3, "Glory to God in the Highest;" No. 4, "Alcohol a Product of Decay;" No. 5, "Strong Drink is Raging;" No. 6, "Waste not, Want not;" No. 7 (refreshment stall), "Linked in One Membership." Numerous and important subscriptions were afterwards obtained; and in September, 1879, contracts were made with the different tradesmen for the erection of the new Good Templar Hall. On 21st February, 1880, the memorial stone was laid; and on 21st March, 1881, the halls were opened with a grand inaugural conversazione. The large hall is 80 feet long by 47 feet wide, and is capable of holding about 1200 persons; a lesser hall holds 500; and another, 300 persons. This structure, which cost upwards of £6000, with its halls, and beautiful architectural elevation towards the river, is an honour to the town; and besides accommodating the Good Templars, is of great benefit to the inhabitants for the holding of meetings. There are at the present (1884) twenty Good Templar lodges, each with a distinctive name, and the number of members amounts to about 1423.¹

¹ The rates charged for the use of the large public hall are as follows:—lecture or public meeting, £2 10s.; concerts and other entertainments (Saturdays excepted), £3; soiree, with the use of tables, dishes, and kitchen for soiree, £5; sermon or Sabbath-evening lecture, £1. The foregoing includes the use of the two small committee-rooms at Terrace entrance. Terrace small halls—first flat, 6s. 6d. a night; second flat, 5s. Lesser halls—East, 12s. 6d. a night; soiree, with use of tables and dishes, 25s., and ball, 30s. The foregoing includes gas, coal, and hall-keeper's attendance up to 11 o'clock. Committee-room, per night, 2s.; lesser hall ante-room, 3s.; west hall, for dancing, from 11 a.m. till 2 o'clock, 8s.; lesser do., 12s.; do. terrace, 10s.; do. for marriage, 15s.; west hall, for public meeting, 10s.; and for soiree and balls, £1—the two latter on Friday and Saturday only.

Although the Order of Foresters is of very ancient standing, yet the courts now connected with that body have only been recently introduced into Paisley. The first court in Paisley, called the "Court of Saint John," was instituted in July, 1868, by a number of the Foresters from Glasgow and Greenock. They assembled in County Square, and formed into marching order, preceded by the Paisley Rifle Volunteer band. Immediately following the band came a person dressed in the real Robin Hood costume, having on each side a man attired in the garb of the forest; then came the banner of the Greenock section, on one side of which was the emblem of the Good Samaritan attending to the wants of a weary traveller, while the other side represented the four quarters of the globe. The Foresters marched in procession through some of the principal streets in the town, and ultimately stopped at the Buck's Head Inn, High Street, where the court was duly opened according to their mystic rites. This court commenced with fifteen members, and now they number 319. Another court was formed in 1872, called the "Court King George." They have at present 106 members. In the Paisley District of the Ancient Order of Foresters is also included a court at Barrhead, called the "Court Banks of Levern," having 156 members; and another court at Kilbarchan, called "Court Robert Allan," having 145 members. The Paisley District of Ancient Order of Foresters was instituted in 1876, and has at present 726 members. The money these courts collect is distributed in relief and burial allowances. Only those who are steady in their habits and of good moral character are admitted into the brotherhood, and in every way the vice of intemperance is discouraged. Benevolent associations of this kind must exercise a beneficial influence on those connected with them and on society in general.

On 23rd March, 1872, a friendly society was established in Paisley in connection with the Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds. The lodge was opened in the Temperance Hall, No. 2 New Street, by a deputation of the officers from the Dumbarton District, who duly initiated the members of this new lodge, which is named the "Heather Bell Lodge, No. 1533, of Ancient Shepherds A. U. Paisley District." Afterwards the office-bearers were elected. The nominal membership is 130 males and 82 females, and their place of meeting is the Temperance Hall, Storie Street.

The members of the different Masonic lodges in Paisley suffered great inconvenience for many years from not having proper places in which to hold their meetings. For several years past their numbers have also been on the increase; and although this was both desirable and agreeable, yet it had the effect of making their meetings both overcrowded and uncomfortable. To remedy this evil, the Masonic brethren formed, in 1881, a joint-stock copartnery (limited), in 6000 shares of £1 each, and erected on the north side of High Street a building of three floors and attics—the hall, with

rooms adjoining for their meetings, being at the back of the main buildings, and entered by a passage from the street. On 7th October, 1882, the memorial stone was laid by Sir Archibald C. Campbell, Bart., of Blythswood, Provincial Grand Master Renfrewshire East, in the presence of about 2000 of the Masonic brethren, who had come from different parts of the country to take part in the proceedings.

There are five Masonic lodges at present in Paisley. The Paisley Saint Mirren Lodge, No. 29, was instituted in 1749, and has a large number of members; the Renfrewshire County Kilwinning Lodge, No. 370, instituted 25th October, 1755, and has about 160 members; the Renfrewshire East Provincial Grand Lodge was instituted in 1826, but became dormant on the death of Sir John Maxwell. In 1866 the Grand Lodge commissioned Colonel Campbell of Blythswood as Provincial Grand Master, and the lodge was resuscitated in the beginning of October of the same year. There are fifteen lodges in the Province, and the Provincial Grand Lodge consists of twenty-three office-bearers, fifteen masters, fifteen senior wardens, and fifteen junior wardens of daughter lodges, and about fifty past masters of daughter lodges. The Abbey Royal Arch Chapter, No. 76, charter was granted by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Freemasons of Edinburgh, 5th March, 1856. There are about 110 members enrolled, and meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. The Paisley Royal Arch Chapter, No. 112, was instituted in 1866, and has about 73 members.

There is also an "Alexander Wilson Lodge of Oddfellows," which was instituted 16th October, 1840. Although the Oddfellows have forms and ceremonies whereby one brother knows another in the different lodges all over the world, yet they are in no way connected with the Masonic lodges. They give grants in charity, and the members receive aliment when sick. Funeral money at death is also given. The capital stock of this lodge amounts to the handsome sum of £4154 16s. 5d., and there are 300 members. Their expenditure for the year 1883 was as follows:—Aliment to members, £173 6s. 10d.; funeral money, £30; aliment to members in other lodges, £13 15s. 10d.; cash remitted to other lodges, £27 11s. 4d.; salaries and general charges, including doctor's fees, £28 8s. 1d.; and secretary, £15.

The arrangements made and carried out during the last half of the 18th century for relieving the poor were continued in this century. In 1803, Mr. John Love, merchant, conveyed to the directors, for the benefit of the poor, a "house situated in Scholars' Wynd, west end of the English School;" and in 1817 it was sold to the Town Council for £52 10s. In July in the following year, Dr. John White, medical officer for the poor, applied for an increase of salary, but the directors resolved that it "shall remain on the same footing as was agreed upon in 1793." In the following year his

salary was again under the consideration of the directors, when it appears to have amounted to £12 annually, and he charged them besides for performing surgical operations. At this time his salary was fixed at £18, being "his whole compensation for medicines, for all surgical operations, and medical practice in the house." On 10th May, 1804, Mrs. Jamieson (Jean Henning) was elected matron. In February, 1815, Dr. White again applied for an addition to his salary; but the directors declined, on the ground that the number of people in the house was about the same as in 1807, when the salary was fixed. In 1819, on the directors passing some regulations relating to Dr. White's attendance in the house, he resigned; and although they induced him to remain for a time, yet on the 2nd March following he finally tendered his resignation.¹ Several medical gentlemen applied for the office, and the directors made choice of Mr. Hugh Thomson to be house-surgeon, and fixed the annual salary at £30. In February, 1821, Dr. Thomson brought under the notice of the directors the deplorable condition of many of the lunatic patients from the want of proper accommodation. He stated that, "even now, for want of other accommodation, we are most reluctantly compelled to chain down to their beds some of these miserable beings." He further stated that "these wretched mortals are exposed alike during the heat of summer and the cold of winter to every alternation, without having it in our power to depress or raise the scale of temperature in the cells where they are confined." This appeal of Dr. Thomson's influenced the directors to cause additional apartments to be formed for the lunatics; but this was not accomplished till the beginning of 1825. On the death of Dr. Thomson, the directors, by the casting vote of the chairman, elected Dr. D. M'Kinlay as his successor, from among seven candidates who applied to fill the situation. When Mr. Crichton, in October, 1834, resigned his office of governor, the directors "expressed their satisfaction with his services, and regret that his advanced years has rendered it necessary that he should relinquish the discharge of some of those duties which he for so many years has discharged with such honour to himself, fidelity to the institution, and benefit to the inmates." At this time, Mr. James Shaw Brown, teacher in Hutchison's Charity School, was elected master of the hospital, and Mr. Crichton continued to act as clerk to the board of directors. He died 18th November, 1844, aged seventy years. In January, 1836, the Board resolved "that any director, when stating his opinions on the business before the meeting, be requested to stand and address the preses, this being considered the most advisable method for expediting the business and keeping order." And on 21st June following, the newly-elected directors, after discussing the propriety of the course hitherto adopted of qualification by an oath, agreed by a majority that an oath was unnecessary and should be discontinued.

¹ Mr. James White of Overton is a grandson of Dr. White.

In 1845 an important change was made in the management of the poor in Scotland. The Legislature, in August in that year, passed an Act for the amendment and better administration of the laws relating to the relief of the poor in Scotland ; and connected with it was the appointment of a Board of Supervision to enquire into and regulate the management of the poor in every parish or burgh in Scotland. In May, 1849, the directors agreed that reporters from the local press should be admitted to the general meetings of the Board. In 1851 a new and extensive addition to the Poorhouse, fronting Back Sneddon Street, was erected. In August, 1856, Dr. M'Kinlay, who had held the appointment of house-surgeon for twenty-seven years, resigned.

The Legislature followed up the passing of the Poor Law Act of 1845 by another Act on 25th August, 1857, "for the regulation of the care and treatment of lunatics, and for the provision, maintenance, and regulation of lunatic asylums." This Act was also carried into effect by means of a General Board of Lunacy in Edinburgh. The Burgh Parochial Board erected, in 1854, a lunatic asylum in connection with the Poorhouse, at a cost of £2300, capable of accommodating fifty-one patients. In 1871 they resolved, on the suggestion of the Board of Lunacy, to erect a new asylum, not in connection with the Poorhouse, to accommodate their own lunatics, then only nineteen in number, and also those belonging to some other parishes. Many of the inhabitants objected to this procedure, on the ground that the Burgh of Paisley alone should not do so, but that such a responsibility should be undertaken jointly by all the parishes in the erection of a district lunatic asylum. For upwards of a year much discussion followed at the meetings of the Parochial Board, and also in the public press. A committee appointed by the Parochial Board reported, by a majority, in favour of a district asylum, and "were decidedly of opinion that it is not the duty of the Burgh of Paisley, already oppressed with taxation, to erect an asylum to accommodate the lunatics of other parishes, as that should be done by the owners of property in these parishes." They also held that the expense of erecting a district and a parochial asylum would be the same—upwards of £150 per bed—and also the maintenance of the patients the same—that is, upwards of 10s. weekly. The minority of this committee also reported at length, holding that a parochial asylum would not exceed £110 per bed, and that the patients could be maintained at little more than in the Poorhouse, which was about 3s. 11d. weekly, or, at all events, not more than 5s. weekly ; and that a large profit might thereby be made from the keeping of patients from other parishes. The ratepayers ultimately supported the candidates who favoured the views of the minority in the committee. The lands of Riccartbar were bought, plans were obtained and submitted to a meeting held on the 4th December, 1872. A motion was then made that the plans be approved of and the erection of the asylum proceeded with, and that "Mr. John Brown, as chairman of the Board, be authorised to

borrow from the National Bank of Scotland a sum not exceeding £8000 to meet the expense of said parochial asylum." Mr. Robert Brown moved as an amendment—"That as the expenditure for the erection of a new lunatic asylum will amount to the large sum of upwards of £20,000, and as this is the first occasion the plans and estimates have been submitted to the Board, they lie on the table till the next monthly meeting, to give members and all parties interested further time for the consideration of these;" seconded by David Murray. Seven voted for the amendment and twelve for the motion. Contracts were afterwards entered into for the erection of the asylum, of which that majority of the Board maintained the cost would not exceed £8000. The asylum was opened in 1876.

On 27th September, 1877, the Inspector, in compliance with a motion by Provost Murray, reported "that there had been expended on the Riccartbar Asylum, including the cost of the land, the sum of £20,899 11s., and as the estimated amount of work still to be executed was £365, the total cost would be £21,264 11s.

The plans that were first drawn provided accommodation for 99 patients; but while the buildings were in course of erection certain alterations were made, so that the asylum might hold 120 patients. After 1877, some farther additions and alterations were made, and the asylum, including Riccartbar dwelling-house, now accommodates 195 patients, for which it is licensed. The Burgh Parochial Board pays for patients from the burgh 9s. 6d. weekly, and those from the other parishes are charged 13s. 6d. weekly. As already stated, the number of lunatic poor belonging to the burgh in 1871 was 20; in 1876-7 the daily average was 46; in 1877-8, 54; in 1878-9, 59; in 1879-80, 60; in 1880-1, 70; in 1881-2, 70; and in 1882-3, 69.

The following have been chairmen of the Burgh Parochial Board since the Poor Law Act came into operation in 1845:—1846, Robert Farquharson; 1855, David Murray; 1857, William Philips; 1859, Hugh Macfarlane, jun.; 1861, William Russell; 1863, James Barclay; 1865, Matthew Scott; 1867, R. F. Dalziel; 1869, James Millar; 1871, Robert Brown; 1872, John Brown; 1874, William M'Intyre; 1876, George Masson; 1878, John Young; 1880, William Morrison; 1882, James Wills.

The number of poor in the house in 1863 was 266, and in 1883 there were 179; but taking the average number for ten years ending 1873, there were 274; and taking the average number for ten years ending 1883, there were 212, thus showing a considerable reduction during the last twenty years, notwithstanding the increase in the population. Then turning to the registered out-door poor, the number in 1863 was 506, and in 1883 the number was 285; but taking the average number for ten years ending 1873, the number was 542; and taking the average number for ten years ending 1883, the number was 414, thus again showing a considerable reduction. There was an increase in the population in the three burgh parishes, between 1871 and 1881, of 6179.

Years.	Gross Annual Rental of the Burgh.	RATES PER £ ON RENTAL.										Assessments Collected.	All other Receipts.	TOTAL RECEIPTS.	In-mates in House 14th May.	Average Weekly Cost of Food, Fuel, Light, & Necessaries.	Registers Out-door Poor. Average No.			
		Owners.						Tenants.												
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	1.	2.	3.	4.							5.	6.	
1863-64	£ 64,290 19 6	S. 1	D. 3	S. 4	D. 0	S. 2	D. 6	S. 1	D. 6	S. 1	D. 2	S. 0	D. 7	£ 6546 3 6	S. 8	D. 11	£ 8425 12 5	S. 2	D. 11	506
1864-65	65,625 15 3	S. 1	D. 1	S. 3	D. 6	S. 1	D. 3	S. 1	D. 4	S. 1	D. 0	S. 0	D. 6	6116 13 7	S. 7	D. 2	8718 15 2	S. 15	D. 2	530
1865-66	66,873 5 4	S. 1	D. 0	S. 3	D. 4	S. 2	D. 1	S. 1	D. 3	S. 1	D. 0	S. 0	D. 6	5619 19 11	S. 19	D. 6	8142 12 5	S. 5	D. 2	525
1866-67	68,186 6 0	S. 1	D. 1	S. 1	D. 3	S. 5	D. 2	S. 1	D. 9	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 7	6188 9 10	S. 10	D. 6	9176 11 4	S. 11	D. 4	542
1867-68	70,860 17 0	S. 1	D. 1	S. 1	D. 3	S. 5	D. 2	S. 1	D. 9	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 7	6740 17 3	S. 17	D. 3	9671 16 10	S. 16	D. 10	554
1868-69	72,113 1 0	S. 1	D. 1	S. 1	D. 3	S. 5	D. 2	S. 1	D. 9	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 7	7104 17 0	S. 17	D. 3	10,246 17 9	S. 17	D. 9	586
1869-70	73,371 15 0	S. 1	D. 1	S. 1	D. 3	S. 4	D. 2	S. 1	D. 8	S. 1	D. 0	S. 0	D. 6	7080 11 2	S. 11	D. 2	9950 12 1	S. 12	D. 1	571
1870-71	77,994 11 0	S. 1	D. 1	S. 1	D. 3	S. 3	D. 2	S. 1	D. 7	S. 1	D. 0	S. 0	D. 5	6976 8 7	S. 8	D. 9	9496 5 4	S. 4	D. 253	560
1871-72	80,769 9 0	S. 1	D. 1	S. 1	D. 3	S. 3	D. 2	S. 0	D. 1	S. 1	D. 0	S. 0	D. 5	6970 2 7	S. 2	D. 7	9340 8 9	S. 9	D. 254	540
1872-73	83,368 17 0	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 3	S. 1	D. 1	S. 1	D. 6	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 7	4884 5 6	S. 6	D. 2	9683 9 3	S. 3	D. 281	506
1873-74	88,802 3 0	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 3	S. 1	D. 1	S. 1	D. 6	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 7	7468 1 7	S. 7	D. 4	11,883 2 5	S. 5	D. 288	478
1874-75	93,636 6 0	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 3	S. 1	D. 1	S. 1	D. 6	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 7	7740 11 5	S. 5	D. 2	11,248 15 7	S. 7	D. 292	446
1875-76	101,052 5 0	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 2	S. 9	D. 1	S. 1	D. 4	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 7	7862 10 0	S. 0	D. 6	11,069 12 6	S. 6	D. 291	428
1876-77	106,636 7 0	S. 0	D. 11	S. 2	D. 8	S. 1	D. 8	S. 1	D. 3	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 7	7923 15 11	S. 11	D. 2	10,183 18 1	S. 18	D. 225	447
1877-78	116,060 7 6	S. 0	D. 11	S. 2	D. 8	S. 1	D. 8	S. 1	D. 3	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 7	8493 10 1	S. 10	D. 2	11,227 2 2	S. 2	D. 257	438
1878-79	121,525 3 6	S. 0	D. 11	S. 2	D. 8	S. 1	D. 8	S. 1	D. 3	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 7	8855 4 11	S. 11	D. 0	11,226 0 0	S. 0	D. 227	442
1879-80	123,760 11 6	S. 0	D. 11	S. 2	D. 8	S. 1	D. 8	S. 1	D. 3	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 7	8892 19 9	S. 9	D. 5	10,929 0 2	S. 2	D. 234	418
1880-81	124,827 11 0	S. 0	D. 11	S. 2	D. 8	S. 1	D. 8	S. 1	D. 3	S. 1	D. 0	S. 1	D. 7	9049 11 9	S. 9	D. 5	12,019 2 6	S. 6	D. 221	380
1881-82	129,754 18 0	S. 0	D. 9	S. 2	D. 3	S. 1	D. 5	S. 1	D. 1	S. 0	D. 9	S. 0	D. 5	8200 14 0	S. 14	D. 7	11,023 16 7	S. 7	D. 202	320
1882-83	132,783 12 0	S. 0	D. 8	S. 2	D. 0	S. 1	D. 3	S. 1	D. 0	S. 0	D. 9	S. 0	D. 4	7478 14 0	S. 14	D. 0	10,841 7 7	S. 7	D. 179	285

The classification of the rental of the property assessed was as follows:—1, Banks; 2, Offices; 3, Dwellings and Warehouses; 4, Public Works and Railways; 5, Shops; 6, Land.

This table shows that the gross rental of the burgh in 1863-4 was £64,290, and that in 1882-3 it was £132,783, being £4203 more than double. It should therefore follow that the assessment should now be less than one-half what it was in 1863, assuming that the number of inmates in the Poorhouse and of the out-door poor were alike at these periods. But we have shown that in both cases they are at present less in number. The half of the assessment on owners in 1863 would be 6½d. per £, whereas in 1883 it was 8d. per £. The assessment on banks, offices, and dwelling-houses is now exactly one-half of what it was in 1863; but public works are rated at one half-penny per £ more than the half; and shops and land at one penny per £ more than the half.

The public Dispensary, as already noticed, was first opened in 1786, and combining with its other beneficent work the giving of surgical attendance to the out-door sick and poor, had done much good. In the beginning, however, of this century, it was found that a House of Recovery, for the reception of poor people attacked by infectious diseases, was greatly wanted in addition, and would be of immense benefit to the community. This important matter was first brought under the notice of the managers on 21st September, 1802, in a memorial signed by the well-known medical gentlemen — John White, James Kerr, Thomas Richmond, John Rodman, and Robert Watt.¹ These gentlemen stated in their memorial — “We often find numerous families crowded together in very small apartments, generally garret-rooms, extremely cold in winter, and in summer most unwholesomely and intolerably warm. Among these classes fevers more or less contagious are very frequent, and in such circumstances become peculiarly severe and dangerous. A fever seizing one person of a family, is almost unavoidably communicated to the rest with all its symptoms dreadfully aggravated. We have found the sickening, the dying, and the dead, in the same confined and cheerless apartment, and in a numerous family not one that was able to assist another, and when the humanity of neighbours would incline them to pay some attention to persons in such circumstances, their well-grounded apprehensions being overcome, it is done at the risk of catching the contagion themselves, and communicating it to their own families. The evils of sickness and disease are in many cases cruelly aggravated by the abject poverty of our patients. Fresh air, so alleviating to disease and so conducive to recovery, can seldom be introduced into their wretched habitations; and cleanliness, no less essentially necessary, can with great difficulty, if at all, be procured. The tainted air which the patients breathe aggravates the disorders, and almost precludes the hope or possibility of recovery.” For these and other reasons they urged the managers to provide an establishment containing eight or ten

¹ This is Robert Watt, the author afterwards of that extraordinary work, the *Bibliotheca Britannica*.

beds for the reception of patients suffering from infectious diseases. This establishment, they also stated, could be used with advantage in cases of surgical operations, where it was necessary the patients should have undisturbed repose, thereby securing their comfort and speedy recovery. As the funds of the Dispensary were inadequate to carry out this recommendation, they suggested an appeal for subscriptions, as "the humanity of the inhabitants of Paisley has never been applied to in vain, nor has any plan of benevolence or charity ever failed in this place for want of liberal support."

The managers at once unanimously approved of the proposal, and on their suggestion the Magistrates called a public meeting of the inhabitants, to be held in the Court-Hall on 28th December, 1802, at which were present the Magistrates of Paisley, the Ministers of the Town and Abbey Parishes, with many of the principal inhabitants. Bailie Andrew Moody was in the chair. The meeting unanimously agreed that an establishment for the relieving of poor persons affected with contagious disorders, and for preventing the spreading of contagion, was highly necessary, and appointed a committee to find a suitable house, either by renting, or purchasing, or erecting one; that a room in it should be appropriated for the reception of poor persons who are to undergo important chirurgical operations, and to obtain subscriptions. The committee afterwards not having found a suitable house, approved of the plan of a new building of two storeys with garrets, 42 feet long by 24½ feet wide within the walls, with a wing of one storey at each end 16 feet by 19 feet within the walls. The committee first proposed to have this building on the area behind the Poorhouse, but as that could not be obtained, they ultimately purchased "the piece of waste ground" at the end of the Abbey Bridge for £115. On 7th June, 1803, they found the subscriptions to amount to the estimated expense of the building, and agreed to proceed with its erection. When completed, the buildings and ground cost £998 13s. 2d., and £20 was further required for rebuilding the wall in Bridge Street, and £70 "for furnishing accommodation for eight patients." As the debt owing by the managers upon the Dispensary and House of Recovery, which were then conjoined, amounted to £372, it was agreed at a public meeting of the subscribers, held in January, 1805, that the latter should not be opened till the following month of June, to give time for the receiving of sufficient subscriptions to pay off the debt. Application was made at this time for the admission into the house of two poor families under fever, residing in Sneddon, they offering to provide bed-clothes. One of these families, of the name of Chisholm, consisted of six persons, and the other family, of the name of Fraser, consisted of seven persons. The managers agreed to admit them; and the apothecary some time afterwards reported that the happiest effects followed, as they all returned to their homes perfectly cured. These were the first patients admitted into the House of Recovery. From the want of funds, it appears the house was opened on a limited scale, till the following year when

the debt was all paid off. A board with the inscription on it — “House of Recovery, supported by voluntary subscriptions” — was placed on the gable of the building facing Bridge Street. The income at the end of the first year in June, 1806, was £423 9s. 8d., the expenditure £204 17s. 8d., and thirty patients had been admitted into the house. In 1810 the income was £381 7s. 4d., the expenditure £380 16s. 8d., and the surplus funds £484 15s. 6d. There had been thirty-nine patients admitted during the year. On 3rd April, 1818, Mr. John Peddie, Rector of the Grammar School, was appointed by the Board of Directors to be their secretary. This was the first appointment of that kind; at anyrate it is the first mentioned in the records of the managers. In this year a number of the inhabitants, with the concurrence and co-operation of the managers, erected at an expense of £547 a building extending from the south-side of the house, to accommodate thirty-two fever patients. On an application on the 7th April, 1820, from the Magistrates, an apartment in the north-end of the house was granted to the military for a guard-house. The income that year was £512 13s. 8d., the expenditure £441 8s., and the surplus funds £585 14s. 11d. 124 patients were admitted during the year. In 1830 the income was £315 15s. 4d., the expenditure £344 11s. 6d., and the surplus funds £681 4s. 3d. The number of patients admitted during the year was 110. On 7th February, 1832, as already stated, permission was granted to the Board of Health to erect a Cholera Hospital on the grounds belonging to the managers, on condition the hospital should be built, finished, and furnished from funds belonging to the Board of Health; and that on the disappearance of cholera the hospital should be assigned to the managers of the House of Recovery. In 1840 the income was £592 4s., the expenditure £532 19s. 9d., and the surplus funds £860. The number of patients admitted during the year was 691. In June, 1847, the managers, from the great increase of fever patients, agreed to erect a temporary wooden shed at the south-side of the house, and a flat of a house in Bridge Street was rented for the use of medical and surgical patients. In August following, an addition was made to the wooden shed, which rendered it capable of accommodating forty-two patients. In October following, fever being still on the increase, the managers agreed to erect another temporary building. In 1847 the income was £975 19s. 9d., the expenditure £1344 os. 4d., and the number of patients admitted during the year 1620. At the beginning of the following year fever had so much decreased that the temporary wooden sheds were no longer required, and they were removed.

In this year the managers — having had frequently brought before them the miserable dwellings of the poor, the deplorable want of comfort in them, and their unfitness for the residence of sick persons — resolved to make an attempt to have the institution under their care, which was chiefly a fever hospital, if possible so enlarged as to admit of its being made an Infirmary for the admission of

patients labouring under any curable disease. In November of this year, the treasurer reported that the subscriptions for this purpose amounted to upwards of £2000; and the managers, in order to be relieved as far as possible of the heavy expenses they were periodically exposed to in providing temporary accommodation for the reception of patients during the prevalence of epidemics, resolved to erect additional permanent buildings, and to convert the establishment into an Infirmary,—not only for Paisley, but for the other parishes in the upper ward of the county. The managers, in their report for 1850, stated, “that from the period the institution was first opened, till 31st December, 1850, there had been 14,546 patients received into the house, and 62,825 patients had been attended to in their own houses.” The additions and alterations made by the managers to the institution were extensive and complete, and embraced among other things the raising of the original house to three storeys, and the erection of new buildings of the same height on the site of the two wings taken down. The hospital, as it now stands thus enlarged, can accommodate 205 patients; and the building known as the cholera-house, being fitted up for the reception of medical and surgical cases, could receive fifty patients in wards properly classified. The cost of the erection of the new buildings and additions was £3104 3s. 2d.; and the managers in their report at this time stated that they considered “the institution in point of accommodation inferior to none in the country.”

In 1863 a Ladies’ Dorcas Society was formed in connection with the Infirmary, for the very laudable purpose of furnishing clothes to the poor convalescent patients after leaving the Infirmary. The society also employed a Bible Woman, whose duties were to visit the homes of patients who had entered the Infirmary, in order to ascertain their habits; and if the disease were of an infectious nature, to see the homes properly cleaned; also to read to the medical and surgical patients while in the Infirmary; and to visit the patients at their own homes who had been dismissed as cured.¹

In March, 1866, the managers accepted of £750 from the Commissioners of Police, for ground and buildings sold to them to widen Orchard Street.

A number of gentlemen, of whom Mr. Arthur of Barshaw was convener, raised sufficient funds to provide a Convalescent Home for patients discharged from the Infirmary. These benevolent gentlemen secured from the managers a house in Burn Row, and another in Bridge Street, for the reception of male and female patients. These homes were opened in May, 1868, and were largely taken advantage of.

In March, 1873, the managers remitted to the Medical Board to consider as to the sufficiency and accommodation of the buildings,

¹ For several years at the commencement of this society, Mrs. Brown, Underwood Park, was president; Mrs. Arthur, Barshaw, treasurer; and Miss M. Greenlees, Calside, secretary; and with these wrought an active and energetic committee of ladies.

and to report whether any alterations or improvements are desirable, and to state any observations they may have to make as to the site of the Infirmary. The managers had also an able and exhaustive report from Professor Gairdner, of Glasgow, dated 4th October in that year. Regarding the site of the Infirmary, the learned professor said — “I will also assume what is very clear to my own mind, and would not, I think, be contradicted as a statement, *prima facie*, even by the advocates of the present site, viz., that its low level and its too close proximity to the river Cart, and the still more objectionable Espedair burn, expose it to at least a suspicion of the presence of miasmatic vapours, which might be more or less dangerous to the sick; and further, that even with great improvements effected in 1848, the existing site of the Infirmary is still too much and too nearly enclosed by houses, to be in all respects what would be considered desirable were it now to be selected for the first time. Having these facts in view, I was anxious to determine, if possible, from the actual observation of the medical staff and the statistics of the Infirmary, whether any good ground existed for condemning the present site absolutely as being, to an appreciable extent, *unsafe* as regards the treatment of the sick. I, therefore, directed my inquiries through the communication above mentioned (*a*) to the success of the larger operations over a series of years, and the existence or prevalence at any time of hospital gangrene or pyaemia; (*b*) to the question whether convalescence had been observed to be retarded (even if life was not obviously compromised) by any of the local circumstances above alluded to; (*c*) to a like question in the case of acute diseases and especially of fevers, viz., any indication drawn from the death-rate, or from personal observation of evil effects due to the site operating injuriously as regards treatment, either during the disease or during convalescence. On all these points it is right to say at once, that the Paisley Infirmary appears, from the results of actual experience, to be void of offence — it may even be said to come triumphantly out of the ordeal as compared with other institutions. For it appears (*a*) that since 1851, at least, hospital gangrene and pyaemia have not at any time prevailed, and that results of the greater operations have been singularly free from unfavourable accidents; (*b*) that ‘convalescence has been sometimes remarkably rapid, and unless from obvious constitutional causes, has not been markedly tedious;’ (*c*) that the mortality of fevers has been low, and the convalescence from them and from acute diseases has not been unduly prolonged. I must add that the statistical facts in the reports for the last twenty years appear to me, so far as I can judge, entirely to confirm these statements of your medical officers. I am accordingly obliged to adopt the conclusion that — whatever may justly be urged against the existing site and buildings, on the ground of insufficient accommodation and want of open space — no case can be made out from the past history of the Infirmary for condemning it *as a whole*, or for incurring the expense and inconvenience of removing to a suburban

locality, if it can be shown that the present buildings can be in any way rendered conformable to the demands upon them." Professor Gairdner afterwards proceeded at length to offer suggestions to the managers how to improve the institution.

The following table, the particulars of which have been taken from the records of the managers, supplies a considerable amount of interesting statistics for the last thirty-five years:—

YEAR.	ADMISSIONS.			Total Average Mortality.	Dis- pensary Patients	Patients treated in their own Houses.	Annual Expenditure.	Endowed Funds.
	Medical and Surgical	Fever.	Total.					
1849	41	147	188	I in 5¾	205	...	£594 3 1	£1471 13 1
1850	106	156	262	I „ 7¾	415	...	839 15 1	1734 15 6
1851	243	180	423	I „ 7¾	1418	402	959 5 8	1991 0 0
1852	294	326	620	I „ 10½	2570	289	1080 19 2	2031 12 6
1853	429	252	681	I „ 8¼	3252	244	1288 12 2	2130 12 6
1854	461	226	687	I „ 11¼	3249	422	1459 18 9	2141 2 6
1855	397	101	498	I „ 12	4252	216	1227 5 7	2159 0 2
1856	410	96	506	I „ 10½	3706	205	1357 11 6	2678 19 2
1857	523	322	845	I „ 10	4685	197	1334 19 7	3110 19 5
1858	479	121	600	I „ 12¾	3640	320	1295 12 8	4126 14 3
1859	519	74	593	I „ 14	1810	366	1174 19 1	4467 9 1
1860	645	104	749	I „ 15·99	2696	312	1567 18 5	4524 18 9
1861	617	78	695	I „ 16·38	2845	211	1724 5 8	4619 18 9
1862	476	102	578	I „ 13·6	3132	250	1257 9 2	4619 18 9
1863	591	144	735	I „ 16·6	3826	...	1419 18 6	4629 18 9
1864	599	343	942	I „ 15	4038	220	1690 0 0	4720 18 9
1865	488	702	1190	I „ 16·7	4926	250	1862 16 10	4881 13 4
1866	565	679	1244	I „ 17·5	5345	270	2349 11 10	5482 18 2
1867	546	400	946	I „ 16·1	6840	180	2354 14 11	5487 13 2
1868	735	243	978	I „ 16·15	4753	74	2046 6 9	5664 13 2
1869	734	179	913	I „ 14·2	5007	186	2142 10 3	6088 16 11
1870	683	578	1261	I „ 16·1	5654	100	2539 5 1	6930 12 11
1871	649	692	1341	I „ 16·37	4864	...	2525 13 9	6930 12 11
1872	727	222	949	I „ 13·72	4115	...	2637 19 7	6959 9 5
1873	770	155	925	I „ 13·56	2754	...	2602 9 8	8049 9 5
1874	796	348	1144	I „ 16·54	3368	...	2829 8 5	9230 16 2
1875	759	141	900	I „ 14·2	3050	...	2661 4 5	9573 6 2
1876	560	151	711	I „ 13·14	3169	...	2270 11 10	9815 6 2
1877	662	150	812	I „ 12	2734	...	2456 15 11	10,040 5 2
1878	625	235	860	I „ 14·8	3376	...	2064 17 3	10,785 5 2
1879	462	114	576	I „ 15·4	3907	...	2467 9 5	11,180 5 2
1880	499	88	587	I „ 17·2	4460	...	2103 1 9	11,860 8 2
1881	499	50	549	I „ 16·8	4613	...	2087 19 5	15,030 8 2
1882	625	90	715	I „ 14·8	4048	...	2430 14 8	15,213 5 9
1883	642	47	689	I „ 24·1	3788	...	2386 15 0	15,565 0 9

The small-pox cases were in 1871, 6; in 1872, 17; in 1873, 48; in 1874, 266; in 1875, 37; in 1877, 1; in 1878, 1; and in 1880, 4; in all, 390. These are included in the fever column.

A small-pox epidemic prevailed in Greenock in 1874 to an alarming extent. Several persons were attacked with the same disease in Paisley also; and the managers fearing a greater outbreak, communicated with the Police Commissioners, the local authority under the act of 1867, who agreed to lease for a year the two

buildings used as convalescent homes, for the reception of small-pox patients. In 1878 the Police Commissioners acquired the Bladda grounds, extending to one and a half acres, for £4500, and erected thereon an Epidemic Hospital, with all the necessary conveniences, capable of accommodating about sixty patients. On the same grounds is a building to receive families, in whose midst fever or other infectious diseases has broken out, where they can be temporarily kept, while their own dwellings are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. About twelve families can be so accommodated. The Espedair burn, which intervened between the Bladda and Infirmary grounds, was securely covered over, and thereby the two institutions were united. To pay the cost of the Bladda hospital and grounds £13,000, to be repaid at the rate of four per cent. per annum for fifty years, was borrowed from the Government. The Infirmary Managers agreed with the Local Authority to undertake the management of this hospital. By this arrangement the community were saved the cost of maintaining a separate hospital staff, while the increased expense to the Infirmary was compensated by the obtaining of extra accommodation.

The following is a list of the Presidents of the Infirmary Board of Directors from its commencement in 1786 till 1883:—Mr. Andrew Brown, 1786-7; Rev. Dr. Boog, 1787 till 1823; Rev. Dr. Burns, from 1823 till 1832; Mr. James Pollock, from 1832 till 1838; Rev. Dr. Thomson, from 1838 till 1841; Mr. James Harvey, from 1841 till 1846; Mr. Matthew Scott, from 1846 till 1875; Mr. William Hodge, 1875-6; Mr. Stewart Clark, from 1876 till 1879; Mr. William Russell, from 1879 till 1882; Mr. R. F. Dalziel, 1882-3.

The following is a very comprehensive table, taken from the report of the Registrar-General, relating to births, deaths, and marriages, and their proportion to the population, during the year 1883, in each of the eight principal towns of Scotland; estimated number of unmarried women and widows between 15 and 45 years of age; also the illegitimate births, and their proportion to the total births, and to the number of possible mothers:—

TOWNS.	Population estimated to the middle of 1883.	BIRTHS.		Unmarried Women and Widows between 15 and 45.	ILLEGIT. BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		MARRIAGES.	
		Number.	Per Cent. to Pop.		Number.	Per Cent. to Total Births.	Per centage to Possible Mothers.	Number.	Per Cent. to Pop.	Number.	Per Cent. to Pop.
Glasgow, ...	515,589	19,869	3·85	68,037	1629	8·2	2·39	14,562	2·82	5195	1·01
Edinburgh, ...	235,946	6,844	2·90	39,670	598	8·7	1·51	4,541	1·92	1976	0·84
Dundee,	147,766	4,849	3·28	24,870	525	10·8	2·11	3,529	2·39	1323	0·90
Aberdeen, ...	109,237	3,678	3·74	15,682	358	9·7	2·28	2,082	1·91	867	0·79
Greenock, ...	71,515	2,845	3·98	7,204	146	5·1	2·03	1,785	2·50	561	0·78
Leith,	65,065	2,298	3·53	6,925	106	4·6	1·53	1,321	2·03	513	0·79
Paisley,	57,413	2,106	3·67	8,774	133	6·3	1·52	1,390	2·42	590	1·03
Perth,	30,556	840	2·75	4,452	72	8·6	1·62	584	1·91	221	0·72

The following is another table, taken from the report of the Registrar-General, showing the number of deaths of children under five years of age, in each of the eight principal towns of Scotland, during the year 1883 :—

TOWNS.	Estimated Number of Living Children under 5 years in 1883.	Deaths under 5 years of age.	Per centage of Deaths under 5 years.	Per centage of Deaths under 5 years to the Total Deaths.
Glasgow,	70,633	6,496	9'20	44'6
Edinburgh,	28,942	1,577	5'45	34'7
Dundee,	19,735	1,436	7'28	40'7
Aberdeen,	15,025	697	4'64	33'5
Greenock,	10,605	828	7'81	46'4
Leith,	9,788	571	5'83	43'2
Paisley,	7,725	493	6'38	35'5
Perth,	3,803	153	4'02	26'2

The number of intellectual, charitable, and friendly societies and institutions in Paisley, and the good deeds they are accomplishing will, we believe, stand favourable comparison with those of any town in the country. We may recapitulate the titles here of those already mentioned—the Old Weavers' Society, Maltmen's Society, Corporation of Merchants, Hammermen's Society, Burgh and Abbey Parochial Boards, Hutcheson's Charity School, Infirmary, Grocers' Society, Savings Bank, Ragged School, John Neilson Institution, Miss Kibble's Reformatory, Society for Teaching and Aiding the Blind, Duncan Wright Endowment, Free Library and Museum, Peter Brough Bequest Trust, Good Templars' Lodges (of which there are twenty), Paisley Philosophical Institution.

We may also further enumerate the following societies and associations of various kinds, regarding which our limits of space will not allow us to go into any further details:—Equitable Friendly Society, Female Bible Association, Funeral Societies, Female Benevolent Society, Ladies' Association for Promoting Female Education in India, Female Educational Society, Young Men's Friendly Society, Gaelic Missions, Glasgow Renfrewshire Society, Glasgow and Paisley Association, Infirmary Dorcas Society, The Paisley Ladies' Sanatory Association, Paisley Young Men's Christian Association, The Paisley Youths' Society for Religious purposes, Ladies' Association for Promoting Christian Education among the Jewish Females in Alexandria, Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, Paisley Christian and Abstinence Association, The Sneddon Callans, The Tract Society, Paisley Total Abstinence Society, Society for the Reclamation of Fallen Women, Waldensian Society, Operative Bakers' Friendly Society, Operative Dyers' Friendly and Protective Society, Carters' Trade Protective and Friendly Society, Paisley Co-operative Manufacturing Society (Limited), Paisley Branch of the Associated Blacksmiths of Scotland, Amalgamated Slaters' Society of Scotland, Amalgamated Bricklayers'

Society, Paisley Branch of Associated Carpenters and Joiners of Scotland, Paisley Provident Co-operative Society (Limited), Paisley Livingstone Co-operative Building Society, Paisley Equitable Co-operative Society (Limited), The Paisley Evergreen Equitable Friendly Society, The Alexander Wilson Lodge of Oddfellows, Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds, Ancient Order of Foresters, Paisley Philharmonic Temperance Association, Paisley Sabbath School Union, Paisley Auxiliary to the National Bible Society of Scotland. In addition to all these, almost every one of the numerous church congregations in town has its associations for charitable, intellectual, moral, and religious purposes.

A considerable amount of business is done in the different courts in Paisley, presided over by the Sheriff-Substitute. This will best be shown by the following comparative tables, giving the number of cases disposed of for several years past :—

Year.	Ordinary Court.	Administrative Business, including Sequestrations for Rent, &c.	Debts Recovery Court.	Small Debt Court.	Mercantile Sequestrations.	Criminal Cases reported to Crown Counsel, and disposed of during the year.		Summary Criminal Cases disposed of during the year.
						Males.	Females.	
1870	150	...	139	2550	10	53	27	72
1871	125	...	121	2418	9	45	13	90
1872	162	...	112	2203	4	56	20	75
1873	108	239	143	2336	10	49	19	96
1874	135	237	144	2342	9	54	17	102
1875	167	261	190	2241	5	67	19	99
1876	154	261	215	2111	9	45	23	90
1877	186	345	280	1550	17	52	15	85
1878	217	442	361	2578	39	75	10	98
1879	276	496	337	2591	36	46	11	81
1880	212	374	291	2608	15	59	11	90
1881	267	464	263	2660	22	63	24	109
1882	237	458	280	2470	6	61	14	96
1883	228	538	255	2564	20	50	12	50

The Sheriff Court accommodation, as well as the witness rooms and chambers for the Sheriff, have for a long time past been quite inadequate for the increasing amount of business. This evil will, however, soon be rectified, as a new and larger Court-House, with ample chamber, office, and public accommodation, is being erected in St. James Street, at an expense of upwards of £15,000, by the Commissioners of Supply for the County, and the representatives of the Burghs of Renfrew, Paisley, Greenock, and Port-Glasgow, under the provisions and for the purposes of the Act 23rd and 24th Vict., cap 79. The foundation stone of this building was laid by Colonel Sir Archibald C. Campbell, Bart. of Blythswood, convener of the County of Renfrew, Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Mason of Renfrewshire, East, and R.W. Depute Grand Master Mason of Scotland, on 29th September, 1883, assisted by brethren

of the craft, in presence of a large assembly of the inhabitants of Paisley and its neighbourhood. The Government pays one-half of the cost of this new Court-House.

The Justice of Peace Court has its sittings weekly on Friday, and the presiding Justices have always a number of civil and criminal cases to dispose of. They have also under their management, in the upper ward of the County, the granting of spirit licenses. In 1883, the Justices of the Peace in the Paisley district were as follows:—Claud Alexander of Ballochmyle, James Arthur of Barshaw, William Abercrombie, banker; James Barclay, Canal Bank; William Bell, Renfrew; Hugh Brown, Egypt Park; John Brown, Causeyside; Robert Brown, Underwood Park; Alex. Cattanach, Auchentorlie; John Clark, Gateside; Stewart Clark, Kilnside; James Coats, yr., of Woodside; Sir Peter Coats of Auchendrane; Thomas Coats of Ferguslie; Archibald Craig of Gateside; Thomas Glen, Thornhill; Peter Guillaume, banker; George Hamilton of Blackland; Archd. C. Holms of Sandyford; John Hutchison, Garthland Place; Hugh Macfarlane, banker; William MacKean, merchant; James Anderson MacKean, Calside; P. C. Macgregor of Brediland; John M'Gown, banker; Graham M'Farlane, Beltrees; James Millar, Largs; John Morgan, Greenock; Alex. Russell Pollock, Greenhill; William Polson, starch manufacturer; William Russell, High Street; George Seton Veitch, banker; George Wilson, West Hurlet; William Wother-spoon, Maxwellton; Sheriff Depute, Sheriff Substitutes of Renfrewshire, and the Provost and Magistrates of Paisley for the time being.

In Paisley, as in every important town, there were at the end of the last century and are at the present day numerous social clubs meeting in taverns and public-houses. "The Baron Club," which was opened in one of the rooms in the Town's House on 1st January, 1794, is one of the few clubs that have kept a record of their proceedings. It was so named in consequence of the members assuming themselves to be barons and taking their title from some important barony. The proceedings of the club were regulated by three rules. The first was that any one wishing to be admitted a member must appear at one of their meetings and make application. The second rule was that any member guilty of profane swearing was, for the first offence, fined sixpence; for the second, 1s.; and for the third he was expelled from the club. Any member entering the club in a state of intoxication was, according to the third rule, fined and expelled as in the second rule. Each member paid sixpence every night, and the liquor they often partook of was a mixture of beer and whisky, with some oatmeal thrown into it, and was called Pap-in.¹ The liquor was drunk out of a dish made of wood,

¹ "Papin! thou beverage of the gods. Papin!
That giv'st a soul to him who may have none;
In every club thou swellest every skin
Like Arab bottles. Whatsoe'er the sun
Can do for earth, by thee, for us, is done.

called a quaich or bicker. The members were all well-behaved gentlemen, and went home at an early hour in the evening. Only three instances are given in the records of the second rule having been broken, and the names of the offenders are effaced with ink. When a member was admitted to the club, a mock ceremony with a sword, corresponding to knighthood, was gone through by the chairman. One of the customs of the club was that when a member returned from Gourrock or the "saut water," or from London, or got married, or at the birth of a child, he was fined. But on 23rd July, 1827, the club "agreed that all fines or usages which do not apply equally to all the members — such as paying once a year for being at London or at the salt water, paying at marriage, the birth of a child, &c. — shall be abolished from and after the 1st day of January, 1828." The club existed till 1846, and from its commencement till that time about 1000 gentlemen had been members. "The Battle of the Barons" is the subject of an amusing poem by William Finlay, Paisley, in his collected writings, p. 197.

From Mr. William Taylor's "Answer to Mr. Carlile's Sketches of Paisley," published in Paisley, in pamphlet form, in 1809, we learn that the working-classes had their clubs which they regularly attended. He says — "The Paisley operatives are of a free communicative disposition. They are fond to inform one another in anything respecting trade; and in order to receive information in a collective capacity, they have for a long course of years associated in a friendly manner in societies denominated clubs. These in general consist of from thirty to fifty members; though often not above the half of these attend regularly. They meet once in the week; a few on Thursday; but mostly on the Saturday evening. They are to be found in every decent public-house. Their laws are few. A chairman and collector include all their office-bearers. These continue in office only one month. Every candidate, before his admission, must be recommended by two or more of the members; and in general no entry-money is demanded. When met, the first hour is devoted to promiscuous conversation. At eight, the newspapers of that day are produced. They are read aloud by one of the company. This occupies nearly an hour. At nine o'clock the chairman calls silence; then the report of trade is heard. The chairman reports first what he knows, or what he has heard of such a manufacturing house or houses, as wishing to engage operatives for such fabric or fabrics; likewise the price, the number of the yarn, &c. Then each reports as he is seated; so in the period of an hour not only the state of trade is known, but any difference that has taken place between manufacturers and opera-

Beneath thy sway life is both warm and bright;
 Like docks and dandelions, Wit and Fun
 Spread forth their beauties to thy genial light;
 Wise saws, like haws and hips, thick clustering to sight."

—(*Renfrewshire Characters and Scenery*, by Isaac Brown [Wm. Motherwell], p. 10.)

tives. In one word, anything respecting trade,—even mountings, &c. After the labour of the week, here are three hours devoted to friendly society and useful information, for the trifling sum of six-pence each.” We find from an advertisement in a Glasgow newspaper of 17th August, 1790, that the Bachelors’ Club had removed from Mr. Kerr’s, Moss Row, to Mr. Lochhead’s in New Street, and the members were requested to attend on Saturday as usual. The notice is signed by the chairman and depute-chairman, and concludes with the intimation that the “office of chief speaker is unanimously abolished.”

While the clubs attended by the working-classes were generally held on Saturdays, most of those frequented by the middle and the upper classes were held every night, and the members visited them just as it suited their convenience.

Some of the clubs had distinctive names, such as the Bailies’ Club, the Linn Club (which met in Mrs. Rowand’s, Broomland Street), the Saucel Club, the Sneddon Core, the Bell of the Brae Core, the Kail-Stock Club, the Pickled Ingan Club, the Peep-o’-Day Club, the Goose Club. But most of the clubs took their names from the owners of the houses in which they met, such as Bauldy Barr’s Club, Mrs. Brock’s Club, Fletcher’s Club, Mack’s Club, Weir’s Club, Cockburn’s Club, Crawford’s Club. In this last house there were four clubs, which were named according to the No. of the room in which they met,—such as Crawford No. 4 Club. In these and other clubs, to one or other of which almost every person was attached, there was much interesting social conversation, and frequently much intellectual acumen was shown. There may have been a tendency at times for members to remain a little late when the convivial spirit prevailed, but Forbes M’Kenzie’s Act put a stop to all that backsliding — eleven o’clock being the latest hour admissible. At the same time it must be confessed that not a few injured their bodily health, and lessened their business, by too frequent attendance and indulgence at their clubs. The Literary and Convivial Association, which had many members, was somewhat different from these clubs. Their meetings were not held in a public-house but in a private hall, and everyone obtained for payment what he desired. Several of our local poets were among them, and the conversation of the members was mostly of a literary kind. Like the Baron Club they kept a record of their proceedings, and they were best known by the short cognomen of the L.C.A. This association ceased to exist upwards of twenty years ago. The Paisley Burns Club, which may be termed a literary club, was established in 1805, nine years after the death of the great poet. The record of the club states that “a number of the admirers of Robert Burns met on the 29th January (believed at that time, and long afterwards, to be the anniversary of the poet’s birth), 1805, in the Star Inn, Paisley, to celebrate his memory, when a beautiful transparent bust of the bard, painted by an eminent artist, was exhibited from the window. The company, amounting to nearly seventy, sat down to

supper, after which the president, William M'Laren, addressed the company." The first secretary was Robert Tannahill, who was present, and read to the company an ode—"The Birth of Burns"—written by him for the occasion. This ode is entered in the minutes of that evening in his own handwriting, and signed by himself. The club was not instituted merely to celebrate the natal day of the poet as it recurred; but having a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary, with rules to regulate its proceedings, and a minute-book to record them, it had regular meetings throughout the year. Paisley has the honour of establishing the first Burns Club in the kingdom; and at present it is as full of vitality as at any previous date.

Of political clubs and associations in Paisley, there are several. The Conservative Association was instituted in March, 1878, and the Beaconsfield Club, instituted 1st July, 1880, is now combined with it. Their club rooms are in the Masonic Hall Buildings, No. 95 High Street, and consist of a large reading room, billiard and other rooms. There is also a Liberal Association, which was inaugurated 14th November, 1878. A Liberal Club was also instituted 10th October, 1882, and has rooms at No. 11 Forbes Place, including reading, billiard, and other rooms. There is likewise an Orange Association that has its annual procession and meeting.

A club of a superior order, to meet the wants of the wealthier classes, was established in April, 1878, and was called "The Club, Paisley." The entry-money was ten guineas, and the annual subscription five guineas. The property of the club and the management are vested in a committee consisting of a chairman, treasurer, and secretary, and nine other members. Commodious and central apartments, formerly the dwelling-house connected with the City of Glasgow Bank, No. 102 High Street, and other rooms, were secured for the club-house, and before being opened were altered and also furnished in a superior style. The club commenced with rather more than one hundred members. According to the bye-laws, "The club-house shall be opened and ready for the reception of members at eight o'clock on each morning from 1st April until 30th September, and from 1st October until 31st March at nine o'clock. The club-house shall be closed at half-past eleven o'clock p.m., at which hour all members and their friends shall leave. On special occasions, the club-house may be open until a later hour if sanctioned by the committee. On Sunday, the club-house shall be open from twelve noon till two p.m., and from five till seven p.m.; the bar shall only be open from twelve noon till two p.m., and no hot lunch or dinner shall be served on that day." Rates were fixed to be charged for billiards and cards, but "no game at billiards shall be played for a higher stake than one shilling. The stakes played for at pool shall not exceed sixpence per ball and threepence per life; at whist, sixpenny points; and at other games at cards counters shall not represent a higher value than one penny each, nor shall more than six counters be staked at one time." The members

numbered 129 for the year ending May, 1883, and the affairs of the club are in a highly prosperous condition.

Literary or debating societies are of long standing in Paisley. In 1827 there were the Barr Street Society and the Junior Literary Society. These societies met weekly during the winter of 1827-28. The Barr Street Society was open to the public, and became so popular that, to accommodate those attending, the meetings were held in the Old Low Church. The Junior Society held their meetings in the session-hall connected with the United Presbyterian Church, Abbey Close. In both of these societies the business of the evening was commenced by a member reading an essay on a subject previously fixed. Then followed a debate thereon, between those in favour of the views of the essayist and those against them, and the whole was concluded by the taking of a vote upon each of the two views. Societies of this kind have been conducted at different periods in Paisley, both before and after the date just mentioned. In September, 1880, the Paisley Parliamentary Debating Association was instituted. It was established for the purpose of discussing political and social topics as far as may be practicable, according to the forms of the House of Commons. The House met every Tuesday evening during the session, which extended from the first Tuesday in October to the last Tuesday in March. The annual subscription was two shillings and sixpence for Whips' requirements for party purposes. Their place of meeting was the Good Templar Hall, and the Association continued for two sessions.

There are several musical clubs and associations in Paisley—such as the Glee Club, the Musical Association, the Saint Cecilia Society, the Sol-fa Institute, the Paisley Select Choir, and the Paisley Philharmonic Society.

Among the many social customs in Paisley, we cannot omit to refer to the annual dinner of the Potato and Herring Incorporation, at Renfrew. A few sentences will tell the story of the way in which this incorporation, as it is termed, was instituted. On a Saturday in October, 1798, six or eight weavers took their weekly walk down the banks of the river Cart and along the side of the Clyde. By the time they reached the ancient burgh of Renfrew, they felt inclined for some rest and refreshment. They entered a humble public-house to have their wants supplied, but the landlady had nothing in the shape of food to offer them except a meal of potatoes and herrings, which stood ready cooked beside the fire. The homeliness of the fare was rather a recommendation than otherwise, and so well did the company relish their refreshment and the simplicity with which it was served, that they then and there formed themselves into a club, elected a preses and convener, and resolved to return annually at the same period of the year, and dine on herring and potatoes.¹ From that time to this the club, through

¹ The dinner took place on the first Saturday of October down till about forty-five years ago, but on account of the shortness of the day at that period of the year, it was changed to the Wednesday nearest the full moon in September.

good trade and bad trade, has been kept up. All the original members of the club were weavers, and for many years all who attended it were in the same rank. But by and by some of them having prospered, had become merchants and manufacturers. Indeed sixty years ago, when the dinner was attended by thirty-six members, not one of them was a tradesman, the meeting being composed of manufacturers, merchants, bankers, lawyers, &c. Since then the meetings have been attended by about the same number of gentlemen in similar stations. The dinners at present, though possibly a little more varied, and the herrings subjected to more numerous forms of cookery than the earliest members indulged in, still exhibit the same frugal bill of fare for the sake of keeping in remembrance the pleasing associations of olden times. At the dinner on 15th September, 1875, the following original poetical effusion was brought before the meeting:—

Herrings fried and herrings boiled,
 Herrings vinegar'd and oiled;
 Herrings hot and herrings cold,
 Herrings squat and herrings rolled;
 Herrings stewed and herrings fried,
 Herrings juicy, herrings dried;
 Herrings that are known as kippers,
 These I swear were perfect rippers;
 Herrings cold and herrings hot,
 Herrings savoury in pot;
 Herrings red and herrings brown,
 Herrings up and herrings down;
 Herrings here and herrings there,
 Herrings, herrings everywhere;
 Never surely such a dinner
 Charmed the chops of hungry sinner.

After dinner, the charge for which is only a sixpence, the glass and toast, speech and song, go round the company. Almost every one of our public men in Paisley has been present and has presided at one of these most enjoyable meetings. The following is a list of those who have presided at these social dinners during the last half century—Bailie Sharp, draper, 1853; Bailie Sharp, in the absence of Provost Macfarlane, 1854; Treasurer Robert Walker, shawl manufacturer, 1855; Ex-Provost Phillips, 1856; Provost Robert Brown, 1857; James Miller, yarn merchant, 1858; James J. Lamb, architect, 1859; William Fulton, Glenfield, 1860; Robert Kerr, of Crookston Hall, 1861; P. C. Macgregor, Lonend, 1862; John Affleck, banker, 1863; Adam M'Lellan, Knockdow, 1864; Richard Watson, editor of *Paisley Herald*, 1865; James Caldwell, writer, 1866; John Cook, editor of *Paisley Gazette*, 1867; John Crawford, Glasgow, editor of *Volunteer News*, 1868; John Bartlemore, Justice of Peace Clerk, 1869; Bailie Fisher, accountant, 1870; Bailie Fisher, in absence of William Craw, dyer, 1871; James Dobie,

dentist, 1872; Thomas Campbell, Justice of Peace Fiscal, 1873; James A. MacKean, soap manufacturer, 1874; Bailie Armour, yarn merchant, 1875; William Stewart, architect, 1876; J. Ross Macgregor, dyer, 1877; James Drewette, of the *North British Daily Mail*, 1878; John Cook, editor of *Paisley Gazette*, 1879; James B. Lamb, architect, 1880; T. R. Cameron, dentist, 1881; Joseph Irvine, Hillhead House, of the literary staff of the *Glasgow Herald*, 1882;¹ Benjamin Dickson, Greenock, 1883.

Mr. Matthew Tannahill,² a brother of the poet, was secretary to the incorporation for about fifty years. At the anniversary dinner on 14th September, 1853, Mr. Tannahill reminded the meeting that his appointment was unnecessary, as last year he had been elected perpetual clerk, with Mr. Robert Boyd his helper and successor. Mr. Robert Boyd, who resigned in 1872, was succeeded by Mr. Richard Watson, who died in 1879. His successor, in 1880, was Mr. James B. Lamb, the present secretary. Prior to 1865, the minutes of the meetings were only entered on loose pieces of papers, which are not preserved. But there is a full record of the anniversary dinners in a good minute-book since 1865.

The following rules, agreed to by the incorporation in 1879, minutely explains how their proceedings are conducted:—

“That with a view to the greater stability of this venerable incorporation, and the assuring of its chances of perpetuity, the following regulations are herewith declared the constitution of the club—
 (1) That the anniversary shall be held annually in the Royal Burgh of Renfrew, on the Wednesday nearest the full moon in September;
 (2) that at least two weeks previous to each anniversary, a committee, consisting of the president, the five immediately preceding presidents, and the secretary, shall meet for the purpose of determining on the invitations to be issued; (3) that at least ten days prior to the anniversary the invitations shall be forwarded by the secretary, stating time and place of meeting, and soliciting immediate replies, signifying the acceptance or non-acceptance of the invitation, so that dinner be prepared for such only as intend being present, and for such others as the committee may think likely to be present as the guests of members; (4) that the incorporation's long-established character of gladly receiving strangers at its social board be steadily kept in view, and preserved as much as possible; (5) that dinner be served punctually at four p.m., so that parties from beyond the immediate neighbourhood may have an opportunity of leaving early; (6) that at the close of the dinner of each year, the croupier shall be called to take the chair, and enter on his duties as president for the year succeeding. A new croupier shall then be elected, and the business of the evening proceeded with. The loyal

¹ Author of “The History of Dumbartonshire,” and of “The Book of Dumbartonshire.”

² Mr. Matthew Tannahill, last surviving brother of the poet, died on 29th June, 1857, in the 80th year of his age.

and patriotic toasts duly honoured, 'The Incorporation' shall be given from the chair, after which such sentiments shall be spoken to as may be deemed consonant with the objects of the incorporation ; (7) that with a view to the due preservation of order, the authority of the chair shall be at all times held as absolute, and during the sederunt no questioning as to his conducting of the meeting shall be allowed ; (8) that at each meeting the utmost freedom of social intercourse be permitted to all present, consistent with the respect due to each other as members of the incorporation and the courtesies of a company bound together by literary and artistic sympathies ; (9) that prior to the hour of dinner a meeting of all past chairmen present shall be held for the consideration of matters connected with the incorporation and specially as to the recommendation of the new croupier."

In the beginning of 1829 a number of gentlemen in Paisley formed themselves into a society, under the name of the "Paisley Fine Art Society," with the view of promoting and encouraging the study of the fine arts in Paisley. The members had a suite of apartments in which they regularly met for the purpose of mutual instruction in the sister arts of painting, statuary, and design. One excellent feature of the institution consisted in its agreeing to send each year one of its promising members to Edinburgh or London to study under some eminent master, and at his return the members would enjoy the benefit of his instructions and the use of those copies he had made of works otherwise inaccessible to them.

On 5th March in the following year the members met in the hall, 210 High Street, where they had a number of meritorious pieces of painting, and elected Mr. James Drummond, architect, to be president, Mr. John Philips treasurer, and Mr. William Stevenson, jun., secretary. In the evening, upwards of twenty gentlemen sat down to supper in the Renfrewshire Tontine. At the beginning of 1831 the number of members exceeded fifty, a great part of whom were professional artists, the remainder consisting of gentlemen in the town and neighbourhood who had joined the society for the purpose of countenancing and encouraging young artists in town in their endeavour to attain success in the cultivation of the fine arts. The exhibition of the works of living artists under the patronage of this society, which was indeed the first of the kind that ever was held in Paisley, was opened on 13th May, 1831, in M'Leod's Buildings, Smithhills Street. The charge for admission was 1s.; a season ticket cost 2s. 6d., and a party ticket admitting six persons, 5s. Catalogues were sixpence each. Upwards of 240 pieces were exhibited, and the attendance of the public was considerable. Another exhibition of paintings and other works of art was opened in the society's rooms, 175 Causeyside, on 28th September, 1832, and continued till the 13th October following. No charge was made for admission. On 12th March, 1833, the office-bearers elected were—Mr. Robert Muir, writer, to be president; Dr. George Wylie and Mr. John Philips, vice-presidents; Mr. Thomas

Boyd, treasurer ; Mr. Andrew Roxburgh, secretary ; and Mr. James Wallace, assistant secretary. On the evening of the same day about thirty members met in the Saracen's Head Inn, and celebrated the anniversary of the society. The third exhibition of the works of living artists was opened on 10th August, 1833, in M'Leod's Buildings. The charge for admission was the same as in the first exhibition ; on this occasion it was open in the evening also, when the charge for admission was a sixpence. The exhibition was closed in the last week of September following. This was the last of the society's exhibitions. No attempt was made to constitute a similar institution till the 10th November, 1876, when a meeting of those favourable to the establishment of an Art Society was, at the request of Mr. James Anderson, held in the School of Art, and those present agreed to form themselves into an Art Club. A public meeting was afterwards held in the same place on the evening of 19th December following, Provost Murray presiding. On the motion of Mr. William Stewart, seconded by Mr. John Polson, it was unanimously agreed that an Art Society, to be called the " Paisley Art Institute," should be formed. Office-bearers were appointed at this meeting, and the institute was formally inaugurated by a *conversazione* and an exhibition of works of art, held in the School of Art on the evening of 22nd February, 1877. The first report relating to the proceedings of the Art Institute was read at the annual meeting held on 30th May, 1878. This report stated that there were 12 honorary office-bearers, 64 committee members, and 152 honorary members. The works shown at the first exhibition were 139 ; at the second, 177 ; and at monthly meetings, 274 — in all, 590. The works sold at the first exhibition were 35, realising £221 5s.; at the second also 35, realising £177 6s.; and at monthly meetings 5, realising £10 6s. 6d. — the total sales being £408 17s. 6d. Since that time exhibitions of works of art have been held annually. The eighth exhibition was opened by a special *conversazione* held in the Picture Gallery of the Free Library and Museum on 24th December, 1883, and a large company of ladies and gentlemen was present. The admission was — From 10 a.m. till 4 p.m., 6d.; from 6 p.m. till 10 p.m., 3d.; on Saturdays the charge was 3d. during the day and evening. There were 416 works of art exhibited, and these were hung to great advantage on the walls of the new and spacious gallery. The exhibition was well attended.

The Paisley Heritable Property Investment Society was first established as a terminating society on 24th August, 1853. Afterwards it was registered as a permanent society on 7th March, 1859, and latterly it was certified as an incorporated society on 18th November, 1880. The society was established for the purpose of raising, by subscriptions from members, by means of ordinary shares only, and by loans from depositors, a stock or fund for making advances upon security of real, leasehold, or heritable properties, feu duties or ground annuals, and shares of the society, along with

other approved security, and generally for the purposes allowed by the Building Societies Acts. The shares are £25 each, payable by fortnightly subscriptions of one shilling per share, with option of paying yearly, half-yearly, quarterly, or monthly instalments. The funds of this prosperous and useful society amount to upwards of £66,000, and it has been singularly free from losses.

The system of levying money for the upkeep of roads, by means of the bars, throughout the country, was discontinued at twelve o'clock noon, 15th May, 1883, in terms of the Roads and Bridges Act, passed in 1878. Toll-bars were first introduced into Scotland in 1750. Some years afterwards, when the turnpike road was made from the three-mile house to Beith, a toll-bar was placed on the east side of Paisley at the north-end of Mill Street. It is at present No. 1 Garthland Street, and known by the name of the George and Dragon Tavern. The first toll-house on the road leading to Barrhead by Carriagehill, is the one-storey thatch-house on the opposite side of the road from the South Church, and a little farther south. Hereafter the roads in the counties will be maintained by an equal tax on landlord and tenant.

The prosperity of the Philosophical Institution continued, as we have shown, during the early years of our century, but its history afterwards, down nearly to the middle of the century, was in many respects chequered and far from cheering. In 1829 the directors removed from the Lecture-Hall in Old Sneddon Street to the Hall in the Abbey Buildings, Abbey Close, that had previously been used as the Glassite Meeting-House. During the prevalence of cholera in 1832, and throughout the political excitement of that time, no regular lectures were delivered. The directors, in December, 1834, in order to reduce the expenditure, agreed that the rooms near to the hall, occupied as a museum, should not be taken for the following year; and that the specimens of minerals, &c., should be carefully packed into boxes, and placed under the seats in the Lecture-Hall. In 1836 the annual subscription, payable by the members, was reduced from ten shillings to five shillings; and as lecturers could not be obtained gratis for the session of 1839-40, no lectures were delivered at all. It is recorded in the minute-book for March, 1840, that "a number of meetings of directors being called, few seemed disposed to act, and the secretary being indisposed in health did not call the half-yearly meeting, as he could not attend without prejudice to his health." On 18th February, 1846, Mr. John Henning, London, delivered a lecture on Egyptian and Grecian Mythology. From that time, and indeed from 1840 to 1849, the affairs of the institution were in a very unsatisfactory condition. It remained in a dormant condition till 25th May, 1857, when a meeting was held of those favourable to its resuscitation. Directors were then chosen. Dr. Jeffrey was appointed president; Messrs. David Murray and James Reid, vice-

presidents ; Mr. James J. Lamb, treasurer ; and Dr. W. B. M'Kinlay, secretary. A room was taken in the School of Design Buildings, where they might hold their meetings, and store the articles belonging to the former museum, which had been placed for safety in the Artizans' Institution after the hall in Abbey Close was shut up. After the rules and laws were again revised, the institution entered on a new career which has proved highly-useful to its members and the community. Since the Free Library and Museum in 1871 were opened, in the promotion of which the directors had, as already recorded, taken such an active part, the members and the public have been well accommodated, in terms of the foundation-deed granted by the donor, Sir Peter Coats. Their proceedings have, under good management, been distinguished by marked prosperity and usefulness. The members in 1883 numbered about four hundred. Much of its recent and present prosperity is undoubtedly owing to the unwearied efforts in its behalf of the late Rev. Dr. Fraser, and of the present president, Mr. Sheriff Cowan ; and also of the late Mr. John N. Gardner, and its present secretary, Mr. James Gardner.

We have already briefly referred to the kind of entertainments given at funerals in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The customs then followed subjected many poor families, in their desire to honour the memory of departed relations, and not to appear singular, to serious loss and inconvenience. The practice, however, continued till near the middle of the nineteenth century. The ministers of the different denominations in town took up the matter, and in January, 1846, advised their congregations to abandon the practice of giving wine, spirits, and cake at funerals. This recommendation was readily adopted, and is still adhered to, by all classes.

We have already stated that Blackhall Castle was at an early period the residence of several of the High Stewards of Scotland, who founded and endowed the Monastery of Paisley. With the exception of the venerable Abbey Buildings, the ruins of Blackhall Castle, situated on the north side of the road leading to Barrhead, and within the boundary of the town of Paisley, is the most ancient and interesting memento of a distant past. In 1396, Blackhall estate was bestowed by King Robert III. upon his natural son, John Stewart. The possessions of Blackhall have remained in this family down to our own time, the present proprietor being Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart, and many of its members have distinguished themselves in various public and patriotic positions.

Archibald Stewart of Blackhall, who lived in the reign of Charles I., was a person of singular wisdom and prudence, and of consummate experience in business, and was chosen one of the Commissioners to the Scottish Parliament for the Shire of Renfrew. The King also appointed him to be one of his Privy Council, and advanced him to

the dignity of Knighthood. In 1650, when King Charles II. was in Scotland, John Stewart was sworn a member of the Privy Council, and was, on 27th March, 1667, raised to the degree and honour of a Baronetcy (*Crawfurd's History of the Shire of Renfrew*, p. 38).

Members of this family were Commissioners in the Scottish Parliament in 1633, 1661, 1669, 1672, 1680, 1703, and 1704; and were in the Imperial Parliament in 1708, 1727, 1780, 1786, 1790, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1835, 1855, 1857, and 1859.

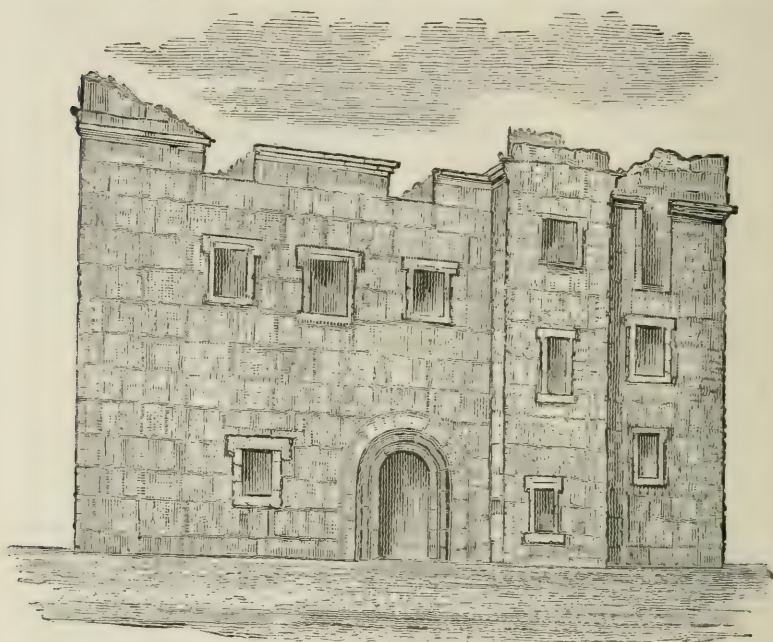
We have been unable to find at what time the Stewart family ceased to live in Blackhall Castle. After they left, the tenants of Blackhall Farm lived in it till about fifty years ago. At that time the roof commenced to give way in a serious manner, rendering necessary the taking of it down, and a new dwelling-house was erected for the occupier of the farm. There is no date on the building, but it is supposed to have been erected in the fifteenth century. The structure gives a very good idea of the grim and solid baronial mansions of the period to which it belonged. A correspondent of the *Gentleman's Magazine* who visited this ancient castle on 21st April, 1821, gives a most minute account of it. We append some extracts from his paper:—

“Scarcely half-a-mile south-east of the populous manufacturing town of Paisley, a little beyond that remarkable ledge of rock which, occurring in the bed of the River White Cart, is supposed to have given the town its original British appellation, and almost close upon the southern bank of the Ardrossan Canal, I observed a solid and antique-looking fabric, not large, but wearing the appearance of something between a house and a castle. I went up to it, and found that it was, in fact, one of those semi-castellated dwellings in which, till a comparatively recent period, even barons of the second class in Scotland dwelt; and observing from the manner in which the farmer who now occupies it replied to my interrogatories, that my entrance into the interior would not be considered an intrusion, I requested permission to go through the building and to make memoranda with a view to future description. Permission was at once granted, and the farmer himself accompanied me both round and through it. The whole exterior of the fabric breathes an air of uncourtly strength. On the south a projecting staircase turret disfigures what is nevertheless the principal front. West of it opens the main door; the arch is a plain semi-circular one. One plain square window occurs between the door and the western extremity of the front. The second storey exhibits three similar windows west of the staircase turret, and one east of it. The upper storey displays an equal number of windows, disposed also in the same way; but these windows rise higher than the superior line of the front wall, and are surmounted by pediments more or less decorated. The middle window, indeed, of the three west of the turret, is a good deal ornamented. The cavetto moulding decorates its freestone casing, and the pediment is adorned by a corded moulding placed between the cornice and the tympanum. On the upper part of the

north front, one window, finished with a pediment, is seen ; and near the ground, on the same front, a small and trefoil-headed, but merely loop-hole window. With these exceptions, only a few small windows, square in form, but most irregular in size and position, admitted light into the interior of the building. I say *admitted*, for now, to save window duty, some even of these are blocked up most effectually with stone and lime, so that the whole exterior, except on the south, looks as forlorn and desolate as can well be imagined. From the threshold of the door, already mentioned, we step, on entering the house, into a strongly vaulted passage, which runs eastward towards the staircase. Across it is a small square lobby, also strongly vaulted with stone, and on the western side of which opens the entry to the kitchen. This apartment, occupying the entire western part of the ground floor, evinces, in its comparative magnitude and in the amplitudes of a fireplace on its western side, that an enlarged hospitality was formerly often exercised in a confined mansion. A small arched window on the north enables us to ascertain four feet as the thickness of the wall. A corresponding window is on the south. In the north-east corner is a recess for a bed. Looking upwards, we observe evident traces of the original vaulting of this room also. Indeed, although there were never here any subterraneous vaults, all the apartments and passages on the lower floor of the building had exceedingly strong arched roofs of stone.¹ On the north side of the passage into which the outer opens is the entrance to another room, now used as a depository for lumber, but which, with the kitchen, are the only apartments of any size on the first floor. The staircase, a winding stone one, leads up to the dining-room, which measures about 21 feet by 18, and is lighted by three windows, placed severally on the north, west, and south. On each side of the door are now recess bed-places, which make the room appear less ; otherwise, this is a tolerably good room, almost the only one to be so styled in the whole house. The fireplace is on the north, marked on the outside by a tall, antique-looking chimney. Near the south window is a press or cupboard ; and in the west wall, near the corner, is a small square recess formed in the thickness of the wall. In the lobby, opposite the dining-room door, is a recess, formerly shelved as a place of ready deposit for dishes. North of it is the entrance to the principal bed-room. This room is about 18 feet by 10 or 12. On its western side are formed two recesses, not of recent construction, for beds. On the south

¹ About five years after the period to which this description belongs, the author resided in the neighbourhood of Blackhall, and was a frequent visitor at the castle. It was then occupied by Mr. James Yuill, the tenant of the farm of Blackhall. He had succeeded his father, who was at that time old and frail. The writer well remembers the capacious kitchen, which was used by the family for taking their meals in ; even their jovial "rockings," of which he was often a spectator, were held there ; and it afforded indeed the only decent sitting accommodation in the castle. Sir Walter Scott's description of the hall of Osbaldiston in "Rob Roy" has often been recalled to the writer by the kitchen of Blackhall, with its dark stone floor, thick walls, and small windows.

side is a small window, arched within ; in the corner near it, a recess, formerly a second window ; and on the north a press. From the north-east corner of this floor a staircase, narrow, and yet constructed with an almost terrific solidity, winds in darkness to two upper rooms, the larger of which, lighted by two windows, one on



FRONT ELEVATION OF BLACKHALL CASTLE IN 1883.

the south and one on the north, is unfloored ; and being unceiled too, discloses the bare rafters of the peaked roof. The garden belonging to Blackhall was on the east, but, with the rich groves that once waved around the seat, has long disappeared. The well, too, was cut off by the excavation of the canal.”

In 1860 The Paisley Provident Co-operative Society (Limited) was established on a very small scale. Prior to that period several attempts had been made to form societies of this kind, but they had all been unsuccessful. Even this society, during the first ten years of its existence, was frequently in a very precarious position. The following statement shows the rapid progress it has made since 1870:—

	Members.	Capital.		Sales.		Profits.
1870	(no record)	£228	...	£2248	...	£116
1875	... 548	... 1989	...	14,644	...	1164
1880	... 1334	... 9051	...	44,323	...	4057
1883	... 1729	... 15,278	...	62,987	...	6817

Although our history stops at the beginning of 1884, we cannot refrain from showing that this progress continues,—for in 1885 the number of members was 2136, the capital £19,740, the sales £81,337, and the profits £10,641. The registered central stores and bakery are at No. 139 George Street; and the shops at No. 168 George Street, No. 68 Love Street, No. 54 Broomlands, No. 20 Lawn Street, Cleopatra Buildings, and No. 24 Underwood Road. The boot and shoe shop is at No. 81 High Street; the bread shop at No. 139 George Street; and the jewellery and hardware shop at No. 26 Causeyside.

One of the abuses complained of by the Radical Reformers, as having been perpetrated by the old Town Council before the passing of the Burgh Reform Act of 1833, was expenditure connected with public dinners and entertainments of every kind at the cost of the corporation. After the passing of this act, and before the election of the Councillors under its provisions, the new electors held an important meeting in the Old Low Church, and passed a series of resolutions relating to the future management of the affairs under the control of the Town Council. This meeting was held on 8th October, 1833; and one of the resolutions was, “that the corporation property should be economically managed; that treating of every description, and all public entertainments with the town’s funds, should be entirely abolished.” For many years thereafter the Town Council faithfully adhered to this recommendation. But during the last fourteen years it has been abandoned, and wine and cake entertainments, luncheons and dinners, have taken place on many occasions. Within the last few years another practice has arisen for contractors, at the commencement of even trifling undertakings, to present the head of the corporation with a silver spade or jug, or some such article. We doubt not that contractors believe it is for their interest so to act. If such a presentation is deemed necessary to commemorate the beginning of a large undertaking, it should, we think, be done by the corporation, and at their expense. Acting otherwise in this matter, and allowing contractors to provide entertainments of any kind, is, we fear, a performance that risks the sacrificing of independent action by the Town Council.

In looking back to the changes that have taken place during the present century, we see that it has undoubtedly been an age of rapid progress, important discoveries, and wonderful inventions. Among these we may instance the propulsion of vessels and the driving of machinery by steam-power—the extraction of gas from coal for the giving of light—the application of electricity to the rapid transmission of intelligence—the construction of iron railways for the speedy and safe conveyance of passengers and goods by locomotive steam-power—the introduction of the lucifer match, now universally used, and superseding the clumsy tinder-box—the

metallic pens, that have almost banished from our desks the long-used quill—and many other inventions, all marking the advancement of thought, aiding civilization, and inaugurating conditions of life vastly superior to those that held sway at the close of the preceding century.

The changes that have taken place in Paisley between the commencement of the nineteenth century and the end of the year 1883, when our history terminates, have accordingly been both numerous and important. But as these have nearly all been already fully described, we do not require to do more than simply to recapitulate them here. In 1800 there were only seven places of worship in Paisley; in 1884 there are thirty-two. The principal industry at the beginning of the nineteenth century was hand-loom weaving, which has nearly disappeared; but in its place there is now almost every kind of manual labour, assisted in most cases by steam-power, which was then unknown. The numerous chimney-stalks which appear in every part of the town, testify to the great extent to which steam-power is applied at the present time. At the beginning of the century there were no chimney-stalks, and at the end of 1883 there were 189. The prosperity and wealth of the merchants, manufacturers, and others in Paisley, are prominently shown by the numerous picturesque and commodious villas they have erected in different parts of the town and neighbourhood.

Paisley has given birth to many men who have deservedly risen to great eminence. Some of them we have already mentioned. Of poets it may be said, their name is legion; and one of them—Mr. Alexander Smith—has, in somewhat exaggerated terms, described Paisley on the banks of the Cart, as having been, “for about a hundred years, a perfect aviary crowded with singing-birds, who have filled the sweet air at the foot of Gleniffer with their music.” We may safely state, however, that the inhabitants generally are equal in intelligence and enterprise to those of any other community.

The following pages contain a list of the Bailies¹ or Magistrates of Paisley from 1594 to 1811, and of the Provosts from 1812 to 1884, with *fac-similes* of their signatures:—

¹ Mr. Alexander Laing, in a foot-note, in his “History of Lindores Abbey and the Burgh of Newburgh” (p. 183), states that “*Ballivi* was the title given to the officers who collected the revenues referred to (revenues of the Abbot of Lindores Abbey), hence the title of ‘Bailie.’” In royal burghs “the bailie was originally appointed by the Crown.”—*Report on Municipal Corporations*, p. 13.

MAGISTRATES OF PAISLEY.

FAC-SIMILE OF SIGNATURES.

YEAR OF OFFICE NAME
1594 John Cochrane
John Vauss
John Algeo, Treas

John Vauss Baillie

Robert Sample

1595 Robt Sample
John Cochrane
John Algeo T^r

John Algeo
Thomas Guthrie
John Algeo

1596 Thos Guthrie
John Vauss
John Huchessone T^r

1597 Thomas Inglis
Andrew Crawford

Thomas Guthrie

1598 Thos Guthrie
Andrew Crawford

1599 John Algeo
John Vauss
John Henderson T^r

John Algeo
Thomas Inglis

1600 Thomas Inglis
John Vauss

1601 Thomas Inglis
Robt Algeo

Robt Algeo
Baillie
Inglis

1602 Andrew Crawford
John Vauss

1603 Do Do

Thos. Inglis, Elected Clerk, 14th Oct. 1603.

1604 John Vauss
John Huchessone

John Huchessone

1605 John Huchessone
Thomas Peter

Thomas Peter
Robert Algeo

1606 Robt Algeo
John Wallace

John Wallace

1607 *John Wallace* }
John Vaus }

1608 *Thomas Inglis* }
John Wallace }

1609 *John Wallace* }
John Algeo Elder }

1610 *Thomas Inglis* }
John Wallace }

1611 *John Wallace* }
Thomas Inglis }

1612 }

1613 *John Wallace* }
John Hucheson }

Thomas Inglis }
1614 NO RECORDS }
John Stewart }

1615 *Thomas Inglis* }
John Wallace }

1616 *Thomas Inglis* }
John Wallace }

1617 *Thomas Inglis* }
John Hucheson }

1618 *Andrew Crawford* }
John Hucheson }

1619 *Andrew Crawford* }
John Algeo Yr }

1620 *John Algeo Yr* }
Andrew Crawford }

John Wallace
Wm's Batty
Aug 16

John Stewart

Algeo Elder

Algeo Elder

- 1621 *And. Crautiora* } *Claud Hamiltonne* } *Claud Hamiltonne*
- 1622 *Claud Hamiltonne* } *John Algeo Y^r* }
- 1623 *John Algeo* } *Thomas Knox* } *TK^{nox} — James Knox*
- 1624 *Claud Hamiltonne* } *Thomas Knox* }
- 1625 *John Vaus* } *James Maxwell* } *James Maxwell*
- 1626 *Claud Hamiltonne* } *James Maxwell* }
- 1627 *James Maxwell* } *James Alexander* } *J. M. Alexander*
- 1628 *Claud Hamiltonne* } *James Alexander* }
- 1629 *James Maxwell* } *John Luff* } *John Luff*
- 1630 *Arch^d. Stewart* } *Claud Hamiltonne* }
- 1631 & *Arch^d. Stewart* }
- 1632 *James Maxwell* }
- 1633 *Allan Lockhart* } *Jas. Maxwell* }
- 1634 *Claud Hamiltonne* } *Jas. Alexander* } *Jas. Alexander*
- 1635 *Arch^d. Stewart* } *John Vaus* }
- 1636 *John Vaus* } *Rob^t. Wallace* } *Ro: Wallace*
- 1637 *Jas. Alexander* } *Rob^t. Wallace* } *Jas. Alexander*
- X *Blank in Records* } *John Luff*
- 1645 *John Vaus* } *Hugh Wallace* } *John Luff*
- 1646 *Hugh Wallace* } *John Hamilton* } *John Luff*
- 1647 *Rob^t. Alexander* } *John Hamilton* } *Ro: John Hamilton*

Lord Abercorn refused to appoint his baillie this year.

1648 Rob^t Fork Y^r

John Spreull

1649 Rob^t Fork Y^r

John Carswell

1650 John Spreull

John Carswell

1651 John Vaus

1652 James Alexander

1653 John Vaus

1654 John Spreull

-57 John Kelso

1657 John Park

William Greinleis

1658 John Spreull

John Kelso

1659 John Park

John Kelso

1660 Rob^t Alexander

1661 John Vaus

1662 John Hamilton

Ja^s Maxwell

1663 John Hamilton

John Vaus

1664 William Greinleis Y^r

James Alexander
elder

Ro: fork bailib

John Spreull bailib
John Carswell bailib

John Gumb
Lam die alger

John Kelso

William Greinleis

John park John park
This is John Park Y^r

John Kelso
John park

Ro: shoo

Jo: Hamilton

Ja: Maxwell

William Greinleis
Ja alger

1665 W^m Greinleis }
Adam Paterson }

1666 John Vaus }
Adam Paterson }

1667 John Vaus }
W^m Greinleis }

1668 W^m Greinleis }
Adam Paterson }

1669 Adam Paterson }
Jas Alexander }

1670 W^m Greinleis }
Jas Alexander }

1671 W^m Greinleis }
Rob^t Paslay }

1672 Rob^t Paslay }
John Park }

1673 W^m Greinleis }
John Park }

1674 Rob^t Paslay }
1675 Rob^t Wallace }

1676 W^m Greinleis }
Rob^t Alexander }

1677 W^m Greinleis }
Rob^t Wallace }

1678 Tho^s Henderson }
Gilbert Fork }

1679 John Park }
John Snodgrass }

1680 Rob^t Paslay }
John Snodgrass }

1681 John Maxwell }
John Adam }

1682 John Adam }
* John Snodgrass }
+ John Maxwell }

Paterson
John Vaus

Greinleis
Paslay
Lorne

John Vaus
John Snodgrass
John Maxwell

Do: Wallace

Some difficulty about election of bailties and those two having been appointed keepers of the common keys no further election seems to have taken place

These were elected but altogether refused office.

John Adam John Maxwell

+ Elected 23rd Dec: 1682 in place of John Adam.

* Under 1st June 1683, we learn Baillie John Snodgrass could not write

288 m ~~St. John~~

1683 Will Fyffe }
Robt Fork }

Geo. Fork

1684 Wm Fyffe }
John Adam }

John Adam

1685 Patrick Carswell }
Robt Pirrie }

Thos Pirrie

1686 Wm Fyffe }
R. Pirrie }

1687 Wm Alexander }
Robt Menzies }

William Menzies

1688 Robt Menzies }
Wm Alexander }

Thos Crawford

1689 John Crawford }
1690 Robt Pow }

Robert Pow

1691 Robt Alexander }
1692 John Wilson }

Thos Wilson

1693 Robt Paisley }
1694 Robt Pow }

1695 Wm Greinleis }
Ro. Alexander }

William Greinleis

1696 Ro. Alexander }
Ro. Pow }

1697 *Ro. Pow* }
Jas Dunlope }

James Dunlop

1698 *Jas Dunlope* }
Wm Reid }

William Reid

1699 *Ro Paisley* }
Ro Alexander }

1700 *Ro Paisley* }
Ro Pow elder }

1701 *Ro Alexander* }
1702 *Jas Glassford* }

James Glassford

1703 *Ro Pow* }
Jas Dunlope }

1704 *Ro Pow* }
Jas Glassford }

1705 *John Campbell* }
1706 *Wm Love* }

Campbell

James Love

1707 *Ro Pow* }
1708 *John Paterson* }

Robert Paterson

1709 *William Dougall* }
1710 *Thomas Smith* }

Wm Dougall

Thos Smith

1711 *Jas Glassford* }
Jno Paterson }

1712 *John Campbell* }
1713 *Thos Smith* }

1714 *Jas Glassford* }
1715 *Jno Paterson* }

Will Snodgrass
Matthew Keill

1716 *Will Snodgrass* }
-17 *Matt Keill* }

1718 *Jas Glassford* }
Alex Langmuir }

Chas Langmuir

Campbell
John Paterson

1719 *Matt. Keill* }
Jn^o Paterson }

1720 *Matt. Keill* } *Robert Greinleis*
Ro. Greinleis }

1721 *John Paterson* }
Ro. Greinleis }

1722 *John Paterson* } *Goorg Stonor*
George Storie }

1723 *Jas. Glassford* }
Geo. Storie }

1724 *Jas Glassford* }
Mat. Keill }

1725 *Mat. Keill* } *W^m Caldwell*
Will. Caldwell }

1726 *W^m Caldwell* } *Robt Fulton*
Ro. Fulton }

1727 *Mat. Keill* }
Ro. Fulton }

1728 *Mat. Keill* } *Robert Maxwell*
Ro. Maxwell }

1729 *Ro. Fulton* }
Ro. Maxwell }

1730 *Ro. Fulton* }
Geo. Storie }

1731 *Geo. Storie* } *W^m Reid*
Will. Reid }

1732 *W^m Caldwell* } *W^m Caldwell*
W^m Reid }

Matthew Keill

1733 *W. Caldwell* }
Ro. Maxwell }

1734 *Matt. Keill* }
Ro. Maxwell }

1735 *Matt. Keill* }
W. Reid }

1736 *W.^m Caldwell* }
W.^m Reid }

1736 *Ro. Fulton* }
Tho.^s Kerr }

1738 *Matt. Keill* }
Ro. Maxwell }

1739 *Geo. Storie* }
W.^m Reid }
Ro. Finlayson }

1740 *W.^m Caldwell* }
Tho.^s Kerr }
Ja.^s Storie }

1741 *Matt. Keill* }
Ro. Maxwell }
Ro. Finlayson }

1742 *W.^m Reid* }
Ja.^s Storie }
John Smith }

1743 *Ro. Fulton* }
Tho.^s Kerr }
Ro. Finlayson }

1744 *Geo. Storie* }
Ro. Maxwell }
John Smith }

1745 *Ro. Fulton* }
Ja.^s Storie }
Jno. Hart }

1746 *Tho.^s Kerr* }
Ro. Finlayson }
Jno. Smith }

Tho.^s Kerr

Robert Finlayson

James Storie

John Smith

John Hart

1747 Wm Caldwell
John Hart
John Wilson

John Wilson John Wilson

1748 Ro. Fulton
Ro. Maxwell
John Smith

1749 Tho^s Kerr
Ro. Finlayson
Will. Lang

William Lang

1750 Will. Caldwell
John Smith
John Wilson

1751 Ro. Fulton
John Hart
Will. Lang

1752 Geo. Storie
Jno. Smith
Ro. Pollock

Ro. Pollock

1753 William Caldwell
William Lang
Matt. Moody

Matthew Moody

1754 Ro. Fulton, Sen.
Ja^s Storie
Ro. Fulton, Jun.^r

Robert Fulton, Jun.^r

1755 William Caldwell
Ro. Maxwell
William Birkmyre

Wm Caldwell
William Birkmyre

1756 Rob^t Fulton, Sen.
Will. Lang
John Storie

John Storie

1757 Tho^s Kerr
Jn^o Smith
Jn^o Whyte

John Whyte

1758 Will. Caldwell
Will. Lang
Ro. Fulton, Jun.^r

Robert Maxwell

1759 Ro. Fulton, Senr
Jno. Smith
Chas. Maxwell

Chas Maxwell

1760 W^m Caldwell
W^m Lang
Ja^s Wallace

James Wallace

1761 Ro. Fulton, Senr
Chas. Maxwell
W^m Orr

William Orr

1762 Will. Lang
John Smith
Ro. Fulton, Junr

W^m Caldwell

1763 W^m Caldwell
John Storie
Will. Orr

1764 W^m Lang
Jn^s Whyte
William King

Will^m King

1765 John Storie
Chas. Maxwell
And. Smith

And^r Smith

1766 Chas. Maxwell
W^m Orr
W^m King

1767 John Storie
John Whyte
John Selater

John Selater

1768 Chas. Maxwell
Will. King
Ja^s Wilson

James Wilson

1769 John Storie
John Selater
W^m Buchanan

W^m Buchanan

1770 W^m Orr
And. Smith
Ja^s Wilson

1771 John Storie
John Selater
Ja^s Maxwell

James Maxwell

1772 Chas. Maxwell
And. Smith
Tho^s Marshall

Tho^s Marshall

- 1773 *John Storie*
Jas Wilson
Rob Barclay } Robert Barclay
- 1774 *W^m Orr*
W^m Buchanan
Robt Alexander } Robt Alexander
- 1775 *John Storie*
Jas. Wilson
Robt Barclay }
- 1776 *John Storie*
John Smith
John Patison } John Patison
- 1777 *And. Smith*
Jas. Wilson
And. Brown } And. Brown
- 1778 *John Storie*
John Patison
John Cochran Sr } John Cochran
- 1779 *John Storie*
And. Brown
John Cochran } John Cochran
- 1780 *And. Smith*
Jno. Patison
Jno. Orr } John Orr
- 1781 *And. Smith*
And. Brown
John Cochran Sr }
- 1782 *Jas. Wilson*
Jno. Cochran Jr
Hugh Jamieson } Hugh Jamieson
- 1783 *Jas Wilson*
Jno. Patison
Will Cartile } William Cartile
- 1784 *And. Brown*
Jno. Cochran Sr
Jno. Orr }
- 1785 *And. Brown*
Hugh Jamieson
John Smith } John Smith
- 1786 *John Patison*
John Orr
William Cartile }

1787 John Patison
John Cochran S.
John Storie

* John Storie * (Captain)

1788 And. Smith
Jno. Smith
W^m Love

William Love

1789 And. Smith
W^m Cartile
Ja^s Stevenson

Ja^s Stevenson

1790 And. Brown
Jno. Smith
Will. Love

1791 And. Brown
Hugh Jamieson
Rob^t Barclay

Robert Barclay

1792 W^m Cartile
John Orr
Alex. Bissland

Alex^d Bissland

1793 W^m Cartile
Rob. Barclay
Will. Stow

William Stow

1794 Hugh Jamieson
Alex. Bissland
And. Moody

Andrew Moody

1795 Hugh Jamieson
Rob. Barclay
Will. Stow

1796 John Orr
And. Moody
Walter Robertson

Walter Robertson

1797 John Orr
Will. Stow
Alex. Macalister

Alex^r Macalister

1798 Rob^t Barclay
Walter Robertson
Rob^t Wilson

Robert Wilson

1799 Rob^t Barclay
William Stow
John Burns

John Burns

1800 Walter Robertson
Rob^t Wilson
John Davidson

John Davidson

1801 *Walter Robertson*
Alex. Macalister
John Burns }

1802 *And. Moody*
John Davidson
Rob^t Speir }

Robert Speir

1803 *And. Moody*
John Burns
William Jamieson }

Wm Jamieson

1804 *John Orr*
Alex. Macalister
Hugh Thomson }

Hugh Thomson

1805 *John Orr*
Will. Jamieson
James Whyte }

James Whyte

1806 *Will. Stow*
John Davidson
Rob^t McLean }

Robt McLean

1807 *Will. Stow*
Hugh Thomson
Arch^d Jamieson }

A Jamieson

1808 *Will. Jamieson*
Rob^t McLean
George Carswell }

Geo Carswell

1809 *Will. Jamieson*
James Whyte
Rob^t Hart }

Robert Hart

1810 *John Davidson*
Geo. Carswell
Oliver Jamieson }

Oliver Jamieson

1811 *John Davidson*
Hugh Thomson
Lorrain Wilson }

Lorrain Wilson

PROVOSTS OF PAISLEY.

FAC-SIMILE OF SIGNATURES

Years of
Office.

1812-14

John Orr

1814-16

Mr Jameson

1816-18

William Carlyle

1818-20

Oliver Jameson

1820-22

William Carlyle

1822-24

James Carlyle

1824-26

Rob Fergusson

1826-27

1827-29

Matthew Boyd

1829-32

William Gilman

1832-33

John Orr

1833-36

Mr Macrae

1836-38

Resigned August.

James Drummond

1838-41

Robert Byset

*Years of
Office,*

1841-44

John Henderson

1844-50

David Murray

1850-53

William Philp

1853-56

H Macfarlane Jr.

1856-59

Robert Brown

1859-62

Robert Brown

1862-65

David Campbell

1865-68

H Macfarlane Jr.

1868-69

1869-79

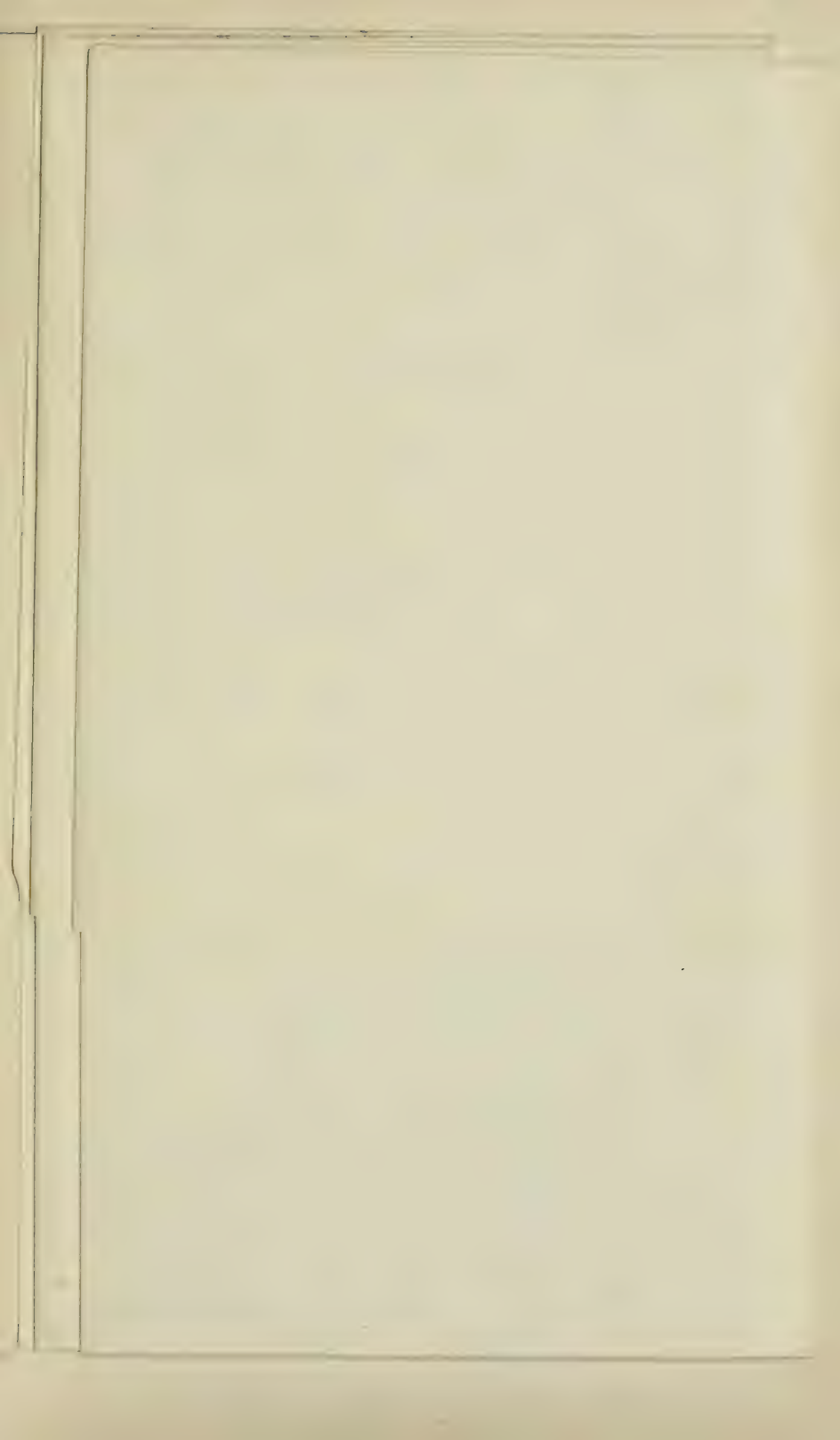
David Murray

1879-82

Wm Mac Lean

1882-85

James Clark



MAP OF PAISLEY

OLD BURCH BOUNDARY IS SHOWN THUS.....
PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY IS SHOWN THUS.....

1886 7



We have endeavoured to trace, in these pages, the history of Paisley in its three-fold foundation — military, ecclesiastical, commercial ; to tell the leading events that have excited the interest of its inhabitants throughout a period of eighteen centuries ; to give glimpses of the phases of its social life ; and to mark the stages of its gradual progress. As a military position, all interest in it is, and will, we hope, ever be purely archæological ; but its ancient Abbey, the foundation of the family from which came the most famous dynasty of Scottish Kings—from which, indeed, our present Sovereign traces her right to the throne — still remains to tell how largely her early history was bound up in that of the church. The phases of its commercial life have been very varied ; more chequered, perhaps, than those of any industrial centre in the kingdom ; but we think it speaks volumes for the citizens of Paisley in by-gone days, that they managed to send the name of their town throughout the world, in connection with a trade that required so much of mechanical skill and of refined taste as did the Paisley shawl ; and it seems to us equally creditable to its people that when, through the fickleness of fashion, this branch of industry failed, they turned their energies so readily into other channels, with the result that Paisley has not suffered from depression of trade for many years, and is, when we lay down our pen, increasing in population, in trade, and what is still more important, in social comfort.

It is gratifying to note, too, that this increase in prosperity and in the enjoyment of life, is due in about equal shares to the sagacity of its rulers in devoting themselves to substantial town improvements, and to the public spirit of its citizens in bestowing gifts calculated to maintain and to increase its reputation for intelligence and skill.

Our work in tracing this history has been to us a labour of love, carried out in hours culled from a life deeply engaged in business ; and, in view of the great truth that all real progress must be based on religious principles, we close our work with the fervent wish, which is expressed in the ancient motto of our town — “ Lord, let Paisley flourish through the preaching of Thy Word.”

END OF VOLUME SECOND.

INDEX.

- Abbey Bridge, 224.
 Abbey Close, 95.
 Abbey garden feued, 95.
 Abbey, view of, from Causeyside, 231.
 Abbey Yett-house, 95.
 Abercorn, Earl of, repurchased Lordship of Paisley, 95.
 Abercorn Inn, 94, 95.
 Accident at horse-racing, 82.
 Act of Parliament regulating affairs of Burgh and Cart Navigation, 427.
 Act of Parliament obtained to improve Streets and Bridges, in 1877, 440.
 Address by the Town Council to Prince-Regent, 186.
 Address presented to King George IV. by Provost and Bailies, at Edinburgh, 157.
 Address, Revolutionary, by Radicals, 192.
 Agricultural Societies, 439.
 Aitchison, Rev. J. Y., 364.
 Aitken, Rev. James, 357.
 Ale, Act of Parliament applied for to tax, 27.
 Ale tax, how applied, 28.
 Ale tax, renewal of Act applied for, but afterwards abandoned, 29.
 Alice, Rev. Mr., 347.
 Allison, Rev. John, 347.
 Almshouse, 140.
 Anchor Thread Works, 404.
 Anderson, Rev. G. G., 358.
 Angling clubs, 461.
 Animals slaughtered, 62, 146.
 Archers' Society, 366, 367.
 Arms, Radicals searching for, 197, 204.
 Army and Navy, bounties to serve in, 67.
 Arneil, James, robbery at High Capilly, 186.
 Art Institute, Paisley, 487.
 Art Society, Fine, 486.
 Arthur, James, of Barshaw, 473.
 Arthur, Mrs., Barshaw, 361, 473.
 Assemblies, public, 161.
 Assessors, Town's, 33, 124.
 Auld's Library, Thomas, 130.
 Ayr, coaches to and from, 160.
 Ayrshire Society, Paisley, 146.
 Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry, 201.
 Ayton, James, a Parliamentary candidate, 275.
 Bailie, title of, how derived, 494.
 Bailie Muir declines to act, and fined £20, 156.
 Bailies and Provosts, list of, since 1594, with *fac-similes* of signatures, 494.
 Bailies' salaries stopped, 301.
 Baine, Rev. James, 30, 413.
 Baird, John, to be executed, 203.
 Baird, Rev. Archibald, D.D., 355.
 Bakers' Society, 376.
 Balneave, D., Pastor, 363.
 Bank, National Security Savings, established, 163, 164.
 Bank, Provident, established, 162.
 Bankfoot at Maxwellton, 53.
 Banking establishments, 89, 90, 437.
 Bank-notes soon to be of no value, 201.
 Banks, Rev. James, 348.
 Bannatyne, Rev. Alexander, 362.
 Bark Mill to be sold, 9.
 Barnsford Bridge, 91.
 Barr, William, and the Provostship, 302.
 Barracks, new Military, 183.
 Barrhead, coaches to and from, 160.
 Bawbie coin described, 354.
 Begg, Rev. James, 347, 356.
 Beggars, vagrant, 18, 20, 24, 91.
 Beith, coaches to and from, 160.
 Bell in Cross Steeple cracked, 434.
 Bell, Rev. Mr., inventor of Reaping Machine, 440.
 Bell-race, no land gifted for it, 83.
 Bicycling Clubs, 374.
 Bill, new Parliamentary Reform, 259.
 Billiard-table at Bowling-green, 35.
 Birkmyre, John, public assemblies, 161.
 Births, deaths, &c., for 1883, table of, 476, 477.
 Bishop, Peter, sentenced to be carried through the streets with rope, held by the hangman, round his neck, 44.
 Blackhall Castle, 489 to 492.
 Blackhall, Chapel of, 9.

- Blair, Rev. Duncan, 357.
 Blair, Rev. Walter, 349.
 Bleachfields in and about Paisley, 59.
 Blind, society for the, 328.
 Blythswood land taken at Inchinnan, 52.
 Bonfires or Tawnles at St. James-Day Fair, 235.
 Bonnymuir skirmish, 202.
 Bounties to serve in Army and Navy, 67.
 Bowling-green, Abbey, 36.
 Bowling-green at Hutt-head, 35.
 Bowling-green murder, 36.
 Bowling-greens, 373.
 Boyd, Rev. John, 357.
 Bridewell to be erected, 119.
 Bridge, Abbey or Saucel, 39, 94, 224.
 Bridge at Glasgow to be erected, Council subscribed £40, 62.
 Bridge at Glasgow to be erected, Council opposed pontage, 62.
 Bridge at Inchinnan, 91.
 Bridge, Old, name changed, 449.
 Bridge, Old, rebuilt, 90, 194, 225.
 Bridge, Saucel, 9.
 Bridge, Sneddon, 37, 94.
 Bridges over the river Cart, new, 440.
 Brock, Rev. Walter, 357.
 Brodie, Robert, gift of Brodie Park, 385, 386.
 Brodie, William, nicknamed "Heather Jock," 459.
 Brough, Peter, memoir, 395, 396, 397.
 Brough, Peter, Bequest Fund of £155,000 to Paisley, 393.
 Brougham, Lord, 411.
 Brown, James, executed, 254.
 Brown, James, Superintendent of Police, narrative of the riots after meeting at Meikleriggs Moor, 173 to 180.
 Brown, Mrs., Underwood Park, 473.
 Brown, Rev. James, D.D., 355.
 Bryson, Rev. Alexander, 347.
 Buchanan, Rev. Dr., 356.
 Burd, John, sentenced to stand on Tollbooth stair-head with label on his breast, 46.
 Burgh and Parliamentary Reform, petition by the Council, 258.
 Burgh affairs, how to be managed, agreed to at a meeting in Old Low Church, 300.
 Burgh affairs regulated by Act of Parliament, 427.
 Burgh, election of Councillors, 299.
 Burgh Reform, 211, 212.
 Burgh Reform Bill, 298, 299.
 Burgess entry-money, 93.
 Burgess oath, dissenters not to be required to subscribe, 159.
 Burgesses, exclusive privileges stopped, 411.
 Burgesses, Honorary, created, 158, 230, 412.
 Burke and Hare, 233.
 Burns Centenary, 416.
 Burns Club, 481.
 Burns, Rev. A. F., 346.
 Burns, Rev. Dr. Robert, 345, 356, 359, 413, 414.
 Burying-grounds watched, 233, 234, 235.
 Butter-market, 62.
 Butter-milk Custom resisted, 54.
 Butter-milk, how carried into town, 54.
 Butter-milk, price of, 54.
 Caird, Rev. J. R., 361.
 Cairns, Rev. Robert, 356.
 Caldwell's, George, Library, 129.
 Callaghan, Owen, whipped, 152.
 Cameron, Malcolm, whipped, 153.
 Campbell, Islay, Town's Assessor, 33.
 Campbell, Rev. A. D., 346.
 Campbell, Rev. John, 349.
 Campbell, Sheriff, made an honorary Burgess, 158.
 Canal, from Clyde to Forth and Clyde Canal proposed, 52.
 Canal, Mr. Cunningham of Craigends, on horseback, leaps over the, 133.
 Canal to be formed, 131, 132, 133, 304.
 Carlile, William, on Paisley trade, 57, 58.
 Carriages, hackney, 429.
 Carriagehill Superiority bought, 9.
 Carriers, 91.
 Carriers, public, 148, 149.
 Cart and Clyde frozen over for four months, 52.
 Cart Dues, proposed increase by Clyde Trustees to be opposed, 48, 421.
 Cart Navigation, Contractors engaged, 51.
 Cart Navigation, Council empowered to borrow £3000, 51.
 Cart Navigation improvement, estimated cost, 50.
 Cart, passengers by river, 305.
 Cart, river, improvements, 307 to 311, 421.
 Cart, river, money spent in its improvement, 52.
 Cart, river, revenue from 1788 till 1800, 52.
 Cart, river, tax on ale, 29.
 Cart to be improved, and Act of Parliament applied for, 49, 50.
 Cart Trust affairs regulated by Act of Parliament, 427.
 Cathkin-hill, Radicals meet on, and poetry, 203.
 Cattle, &c., slaughtered, 62, 146, 453.

- Cattle-market, weekly, 454.
 Cavalry, 172.
 Cemetery, Paisley, 419.
 Chain, new gold, and badge to the Provost, 156.
 Chain Road, 53.
 Chains, gold, and badges to the Provost and Bailies, 155.
 Chairmen of Burgh Parochial Board, 468.
 Chalice, Rev. W. N., 364.
 Chamberlains, 122, 123.
 Chandeliers, two, fitted up in Low Parish Church, 32.
 Chapel, Independent Methodist, 365.
 Chapel, New Jerusalem, 366.
 Chapel, Roman Catholic, East Buchanan Street, 365.
 Chapel, Roman Catholic, Queen Street, 365.
 Chapel, Unitarian, 365.
 Chapel, Wesleyan Methodist, 365.
 Characters, public, 454.
 "Charleston Puddock," named William M'Allister, 458, 459.
 Cheese Market, 62.
 Cholera morbus in Paisley, 276 to 286.
 Church, Anti-Burgher, Oakshaw, 31.
 Church, Baptist, George Street, 363.
 Church, Baptist, Lady Lane, 363.
 Church, Baptist, Storie Street, 362.
 Church, Berean, New Sneddon Street, 32.
 Church, Burgher, 31.
 Church, Cameronian, Lowndes Lane, 32.
 Church, Congregationalist, 363.
 Church, Episcopalian, St. James Place, 351.
 Church, Evangelical Union, 364.
 Church, Free Gaelic, 362.
 Church, Free High, 360.
 Church, Free Martyrs, 362.
 Church, Free Middle, 361.
 Church, Free South, 362.
 Church, Free St. George's, 359.
 Church, Gaelic, Oakshaw, 32, 349.
 Church, Garnel, New Sneddon Street, 349, 351, 355.
 Church, High, erected, 30.
 Church, High, 346.
 Church, Low Parish, New Street, 32, 345.
 Church, Martyrs, 358.
 Church, Middle, erected, 30.
 Church, North, 356.
 Church, Primitive Methodist, 364, 365.
 Church, Reformed Presbyterian, Storie Street, 351.
 Church, Reformed Presbyterian, Oakshaw, 349.
 Church, Relief, Canal Street, 32.
 Church, South, 357, 361, 362.
 Church, St. George's, 345.
 Church, Tabernacle, 363.
 Church, U.P., Abbey Close, 348.
 Church, U.P., Canal Street, 348.
 Church, U.P., George Street, 355.
 Church, U.P., Greenock Road, 355.
 Church, U.P., James Street, 353.
 Church, U.P., Oakshaw, 347.
 Church, U.P., Thread Street, 352.
 Church-yards, bodies lifted, 232, 233.
 Churches built in eighteenth century, 94.
 Churches in Paisley in 1812, 345.
 Circuit Court wanted by Greenock authorities, 415.
 Clark, Geo. A., gift of Town Hall by, 391.
 Clark, James, gift of organ to St. George's Church, 346.
 Clark & Co.'s Thread Works, 404.
 Clazy, Rev. George, 351.
 Cleg, Radical, 191, 202.
 Clerks, Town, 430.
 Club, The, Paisley, 482.
 Clubs and associations, musical, 483.
 Clubs, political, 482.
 Clubs, social, 479, 480, 481.
 Clyde Trustees, operations injuring Cart Navigation, 48.
 Clyde Trustees' attempt to increase dues on vessels entering the river Cart, 48, 421.
 Clyde Trustees pay Cart Trustees £150 to repair injury, 49.
 Coaches, public, to different places, 159, 304, 305.
 Coach-sheds to be let, 92.
 Coat of arms, Paisley, 461.
 Coats, Jervis, 457, 460.
 Coats, Sir Peter, gift of Free Library and Museum by, 383, 384.
 Coats, Thomas, death of, 393.
 Coats, Thomas, gift of Fountain Gardens by, 383, 384.
 Coats, Thomas, gift of Observatory by, 393.
 Coats's, Messrs., Thread Works, 404.
 Coffee-Room, 60, 61, 138.
 Coins, ancient, discovered, 422.
 Coins, local, 460, 461.
 Colin's Island, 51.
 Combinations illegal, proclamation, 148.
 Comet, 402.
 Commissioners report on burgh affairs, 299.
 Connell, Sheriff, made an honorary Burgess, 158.
 Constable, derivation of the word, 436.
 Constables' batons ordered, 135.
 Constables, special, 133, 134, 135.

- Contractors' presentations, 493.
 Convalescent Home at Infirmary, 473.
 Cook, John, death of, 419.
 Cook, John and James, owners and conductors of *Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette*, 418.
 Cook, Rev. Mr., 355.
 Cooper's "History of Ayrshire Cavalry," 201.
 Corn Laws, Council petition in favour of repeal of, 62, 125, 126, 229.
 Cotton-spinners whipped, 152, 153.
 Cotton-spinning commenced, 82.
 Council Chambers, 12.
 Council entertainments, Town, 493.
 Councillors fined for declining to act when elected, 79.
 Councillors, first election after Reform Bill, 299.
 Councillors stop entertainments, 300.
 County Buildings, 160.
 County Buildings, allocation of part of, to the Town Council, 120.
 County Buildings, cost of, 120.
 County Buildings, so named, 119.
 County Buildings, view of, 120.
 County Election, Beer to Paisley inhabitants, 66.
 Courts, head, when held, 33.
 Courts held by the Magistrates, 435.
 Cows of Burgesses, ancient practice of pasturing stopped, 53.
 Craig, John, executed, 254.
 Craig, John, exposed on pillory with label on his breast, 45.
 Crawford, J. S., 367.
 Crawford, Mr., a Parliamentary candidate, 274.
 Crichton, Thomas, poem in praise of Paisley Library, 129.
 Cricket Clubs, 375.
 Crime in Paisley, table showing, 436.
 Crime in Paisley, 1807 to 1818, 136, 137.
 Criminals exposed in the streets, 44, 45, 46.
 Cross, sale of confections, &c., there, 140.
 Cross, Sir Richard, 413.
 Cross, William, 403.
 Crouch, John, pastor, 363.
 Cullen, Robert, Town's Assessor, 33.
 Cunningham, Rev. Dr., 359.
 Curling, 370, 371, 372, 373.
 Custom-booth and tron, 62.
 Custom on butter, milk, and potatoes resisted, 54.
 Customs or Causey Tax abolished, and assessment in its place, 427.
 Damages by Radicals, claims for, 212.
 Davidson, Robert, Town's Assessor, 33.
 Deaf and Dumb Society, 211.
 Dearth in 1800, 98, 99, 100.
 Death-rate, 448.
 Deaths, births, &c., for 1883, table of, 476, 477.
 Debating societies, 483.
 Depression of trade, 78, 79, 146.
 Dickson, Rev. J. B., 360.
 Diligence, Paisley to Glasgow, 91.
 Dilke, Sir Charles, 412.
 Directories, Paisley, 144, 145.
 Dispensary, public, 470.
 Distillers, unlicensed, 79.
 Distilling of whisky, illicit, 165.
 Distress of working classes in 1800, 98, 99.
 Distress in the country, 71.
 Dixon, Rev. J. M., 362.
 Donald, Thos., nicknamed the "Juck," 458.
 Dorcas Society, Ladies', in connection with the Infirmary, 473.
 Douglas, John, a Parliamentary candidate, 274.
 Drainage of the Town, 449.
 Drummer, Town, 10, 62, 150.
 Dublin, Paisley firms, places of business in, 57.
 Duncan, Rev. Robert, 347.
 Dundonald, Lord, subscriptions to pay fine, 162.
 Dunlop, coaches to and from, 160.
 Dunlop, Rev. Robert, 351.
 Dunlop's, Sheriff, correspondence with Mr. Wallace of Kelly, 207.
 Eadie, Rev. Dr., 348.
 Earl, Edward, created honorary Burgess, 158.
 Earthquake in Paisley, &c., 101, 399, 400.
 East India Charter, petition against, 80, 161.
 Editors of the *Paisley Advertiser* newspaper, 302.
 Education, many schools, 150.
 Elder, Rev. Andrew, 356.
 Elder, Rev. Mr., 364.
 Election of Bailies and Councillors, old plan, 212.
 Election of Sir John Maxwell, M.P., 272.
 Election of successor to Sir John Maxwell, M.P., 1834, 274.
 Election of successor to Sir D. K. Sandford, M.P., 1835, 274.
 Election of successor to A. G. Speirs, M.P., 1836, 278.
 Election of Town Councillors, 299.
 Elections, Parliamentary, 272, 274, 275, 278.

- Ellice, Rev. James, 31.
 Emigration, 205, 443.
 Entertainments by the Town Council, 493.
 Entries of singular successor raised, 311.
 Execution of Craig and Brown, 254.
 Execution of William Perry, 256.
 Executions, 39, 40, 187, 253, 254.
 Ewing, H. Crum, M.P., 367.
 Faculty of Procurators, 106.
 Fair, St. James-Day, 210, 235.
 Falconer, Rev. Mr., 358.
 Farquharson, Provost, 220, 356.
 Farthings, Paisley, 460, 461.
 Ferguslie Castle, 15.
 Ferguslie estate, offers to search for coal, 16.
 Ferguslie estate, selling of superiority objected to, 16.
 Ferguslie estate sold, 124.
 Ferguslie lands, taking of stones prohibited, 15.
 Ferguslie lands, trees sold, 15, 16, 124.
 Ferguslie Thread Works, 404.
 Ferrier, Rev. William, 31, 347.
 Findlay, Rev. John, of the High Church, 30, 346.
 Findlay, Rev. Robert, D.D., 32.
 Fire engines, 34, 123.
 Fiscals' salaries discontinued, 301.
 Fish from Largs, 140.
 Fish-market, 62.
 Flag to be painted, 75.
 Flags at meeting on Meikleriggs Moor, 170, 172.
 Flags at meeting at Johnstone, 185.
 Flags burned at meeting at Pattison's Mound, 268.
 Fleming, Rev. Andrew G., 353.
 Fleming, Rev. Dr., Neilston, on the seditious address, 196.
 Fleming, Rev. John, 358.
 Flesh-market, 61, 94, 253.
 Flesh market, new, in Gilmour Street, 253.
 Fleshers' Society, 376.
 Flett, Rev. Oliver, D.D., 363.
 Flood in the river Cart, 84.
 Florist Societies, 441.
 Football Clubs, 374.
 Foot-race on race-course, 248.
 Foot-race between Paisley and Glasgow, 84.
 Ford, Sneddon, 37.
 Fords at Inchinnan, 91.
 Fords, women carried men on their shoulders over, 37.
 Foresters, Order of, 464.
 Forrester, Rev. Alex., 361.
 Fountain Gardens, 383.
 Foxbar, man shot there, 197.
 France, Rev. William, 347.
 France, Revolution in, effect on this country, 67, 68.
 France threatening to invade Britain, 107.
 Fraser, Rev. Alex. F., 347.
 Fraser, Rev. William, LL.D., 361.
 French vessels with arms and money, 203.
 Frost, severe, 52, 400.
 Fulton, Humphrey, note about, 56.
 Fulton, Robert, commandant of a Volunteer corps, 100.
 Funds, Town's, statement in 1753.
 Funerals, entertainments at, 489.
 Gairdner, Professor's report on sufficiency of the Infirmary, 472.
 Game-preserving Society, 78.
 Gardens, private and public, 55.
 Gardner, Miss, 367.
 Gas manufactured, 288 to 291, 420.
 Gauze, silk, trade in 1784, 000.
 Gemmell, Jamie, 455.
 Gemmell, Matthew, 350.
 Gilchrist, Rev. John, 349.
 Gilfillan, Rev. Robert, 357.
 Gillies, Rev. Colin, 32, 345.
 Gilmour Street, 160.
 Gladstone, Mr., offered a Burgess-ship, 412.
 Glasgow, coaches to and from, 159, 160.
 Glasgow Library, 129.
 Glasgow's, Earl of, daughter married to son of Lord Dundonald, 162.
 Glen, George, 367.
 Gold chain and badge for the Provost and Bailies, 155.
 Goldie, John, song by, about the Radicals, 200, 203.
 Gordon, Captain, a Parliamentary candidate, 274.
 Gordon, Lord George, and the Catholics, 64.
 Grain imported in 1800 to relieve distress, 95, 96, 100.
 Grain, spirits from, petition by Council in favour of prohibition, 124, 125.
 Graham, Rev. James, 356.
 Grammar School, 94.
 Grant, General, 412.
 Greenock authorities wish Circuit Courts held there, 415.
 Greenock, coaches to and from, 159.
 Greenock Jail, prisoners taken from Paisley to, 204.
 Greenock Jail broken open, riot and six persons killed, 204.
 Greenock Jail, proclamation, 205.
 Greenlees, Miss M., 473.

- Grey, Earl, recalled to form a new ministry, 270.
 Grocers' Society, 382.
 Guard, Town, 35, 135.
 Guns, Russian, presented to the town, 438.
 Guy, John, 458.
 Hardie, Andrew, sentenced to be hanged, 203.
 Halberds of Town Officers, 300.
 Hammermen's Society, 376, 380, 381.
 Harris, Robert, 463.
 Hart, Rev. Hugh, 353.
 Harvests, bad, 98, 99, 220.
 Hastie, Archd., elected M.P., 1836, 275.
 "Heather Jock," named William Brodie, 459.
 Henderson, James, 418.
 Henderson, Rev. Andrew, 348.
 Henderson, Rev. Peter, 357, 361, 362.
 Henderson, Rev. Thomas, 32, 350.
 Henning, Samuel, drew plan of Middle Church, 30.
 Herds, public, horn carried by, 53.
 Heritable Property Investment Society, 487.
 High Church erected, 30.
 Hope-Temple Gardens, 383.
 Horses backs, lime, &c., carried on, 91.
 Horticultural Society, 442.
 Hospital, Epidemic, erected, 476.
 House of Recovery, 471, 472.
 Houses adjoining Tollbooth, Moss-row, bought, 9.
 Houses at West Steeple bought, 9.
 Houses at West Steeple sold, 9.
 Houses, dwelling, 94, 409, 410.
 Humane Society, 150.
 "Hungry Jamie," named James Menzies, 458.
 Hutchison, Rev. Patrick, 32, 348.
 Hutchison's Charity School, 101 to 106.
 Hutt-head, 35.
 Hutton, Rev. Dr., 348.
 Illicit whisky stills, 165.
 Illumination on Reform Bill being carried by a majority of one, 260.
 Illuminations, 66, 67.
 Imrie, Rev. D. N., 357.
 Inchinnan Bridge, 49, 91.
 Industries, list of, in Paisley in 1883-4, 404, 405.
 Infirmary, 85 to 89.
 Infirmary, list of presidents of, 476.
 Infirmary, report by Professor Gairdner on condition of the, 474.
 Infirmary, table showing interesting statistics for the last 35 years, 475.
 Inglis, Rev. G. T. M., 364.
 Inn, Abercorn, 94, 95.
 Instrumental band formed, 262.
 Institutions, charitable, &c., 477.
 Intimidation of electors by non-electors, 275.
 Inventions during the nineteenth century, 493.
 Irvine, coaches to and from, 160.
 Jack, Peter, writer, agent for James Speirs, 207.
 Jail, attempt of prisoners to escape from, 121.
 Jail, escape of two criminals from, 121.
 Jail, new, to be erected, 118, 119.
 Johnstone, Radical reform meeting at, 184.
 Johnstone, Rev. David, 349.
Journal newspaper, Paisley, 418.
 "Juck, the," named Thomas Donald, 458, 459.
 Jugs, 12.
 Justice of Peace Court, 479.
 Justices of the Peace in 1883, list of, 479.
 Kennedy, Rev. C. J., 365, 366.
 Kennedy, Rev. Ebenezer, 364.
 Kerr, Dr., death and monument to, 296.
 Kerr, Dr., testimonial to, 295.
 Kerr, Thomas, postmaster, 9.
 Kibble Institution, 329 to 332.
 Kilmarnock, coaches to and from, 60.
 Kilmaurs, coaches to and from, 160.
 King Charles X.'s abdication, 256.
 King George III., attack on, 71.
 King George III., addresses to, 80, 106, 107, 114.
 King George III., rejoicings at accession of, to the throne, 75.
 King George IV., birth-day celebrations of, 12, 93, 139.
 King George IV., address of condolence by the Council to, on the death of King George III., 192.
 King George IV., death of, 312.
 King George IV., demonstration on accession of, to the throne, 311.
 King George IV.'s visit to Edinburgh, an address presented, 157.
 King William IV. proclaimed, 313.
 King William IV., addresses to, 265.
 King William IV. died, 313.
 King's birth-day anniversary celebrated by a public dinner, 301.
 Kinloch, Rev. Samuel, 31, 348.
 Kirk, Rev. Robert, 347.
 Knock ford, 49, 51.
 Knox's Church, Toronto, 359.

- Lamb, J. J., 367.
 Lamps, contract for lighting street, 34.
 Lamps for the streets, 33.
 Landels, George W., pastor, 363.
 Lawn Tennis Club, 374.
 Letter-press printing commenced, 81.
 Library, Free, and Museum, 383.
 Library, John Millar's, 130.
 Library, Paisley, 129.
 Library, poem by Thomas Crichton in praise of, 129.
 Library, Theological, 130.
 Library, Thomas Auld's, 130.
 Library, Trades, 130.
 Licensing public-houses, 429.
 Lime, price of, 53.
 Lime-works around Paisley, 53.
 Lindsay, Andrew, 456.
 Literature, periodical, 216.
 London, Paisley firms, places of business in, 57.
 Looms, number of, in Paisley, 57, 94, 409.
 Lordship of Paisley re-bought by Earl of Abercorn, 95.
 Lorimer's day, 64, 65, 66, 375, 376.
 Love, Willie, 457.
 Low, Rev. William, 359.
 Loyalty of the inhabitants of Paisley, 75.
 Lunacy Act, new, 467.
 Lunatic Asylum, new, 467, 468.
 Lusk, Johnnie, 454.
 Lyle, Robert, executed, 39.
 Lyners and visitors of markets appointed, 33.
 Lyon, William, coach proprietor, 304.
 Macalister, Rev. Ronald, 349.
 Macalpine, J. W., pastor, 363.
 Macdonald, Rev. C. C., 358.
 Macdonald, Rev. Finlay R., 359.
 Macdowal, William, M.P., vote of thanks by the Council to, 60.
 Macfarlane, Miss, possessor of drawing of Tollbooth and spire, 11.
 Macfarlane, Provost, 342, 360, 445.
 Macfarlane, Rev. John, 358.
 Macmorland, Rev. Peter, 356.
 Macnaughtan, Rev. John, 356, 360.
 Maik, coin described, 354.
 Mair, John, falling from Cross Steeple, 11.
 Maltmen's Society, 376, 378, 379.
 Man died from wounds received from the military, 204.
 Manufacturing, number of, firms in Paisley, 57.
 Map of Paisley in 1886, 495.
 Map of Paisley, by Knox, 214.
 Map of Paisley, illustrated, 90.
 Martyrs' monument, 287, 288.
 Masonic Lodges, 464, 465.
 Masonic Lodge erected, 464.
 Masonic Lodges, 64.
 Masons' Society, 376.
 Maxwell, Sir John, chosen as a candidate to represent Paisley in Parliament, 271, 272.
 Maxwell, Sir John, breaking his pledges, 272, 273.
 Maxwell, Sir John, resigns, 273.
 Meal warehouse in Sneddon, 350.
 Measurement of Mason work, 35.
 Meeting-house, Moss-row, sold, 9.
 Meeting in Old Low Church to decide how Town Council affairs are to be managed, 309.
 Meeting in West Relief Church on Burgh Reform, 211.
 Meeting, public, in Relief Church, Canal Street, important political resolutions, 166.
 Meeting, public, on rejection of Reform Bill by House of Lords, 267.
 Meeting, public, at Patison's mound, and flags burned, 268.
 Meeting, Radical Reform, at Johnstone, 184.
 Meikleriggs Moor, Reform meeting on, 168, 169, 170.
 Menzies, James, nicknamed "Hungry Jamie," 458.
 Merchants' Society, 376, 379.
 Merksworth, rock at, to be removed, 52.
 Metcalfe, Rev. W. M., 358.
 Middle Church erected, 30, 347.
 Military and Yeomen insulted, 200.
 Militia, 68, 69, 75, 113, 114, 115.
 Milk, butter, horns of herds used for measuring, 53.
 Millar's, John, library, 130.
 Mills, Rev. William Fowler, 352.
 Ministry, resignation of, majority being against them, 267.
 Montgomery, Jean, publicly whipped, 44.
 Monument erected in Paisley Cemetery to the memory of Hardie and Baird, 203.
 Moody, James, publicly whipped, 43.
 Morris, Rev. A. B., 364.
 Morrison, John, whipped, 153.
 Morrison, Rev. James, 32.
 Morison, Rev. James, D.D., 364.
 Morton, Rev. G., 358.
 Motherwell, William, 161.
 Motherwell, William, account of Radical rioting, 180 to 183.
 Motto, ancient, of Paisley, 461, 495.
 Muir, John, when elected a Bailie declines to act, and fined in £20, 156.
 Municipal buildings to be erected, 119.

- Munro, Rev. Alexander, 362.
 Murder at Bowling green, 36.
 Mure, Rev. George, 30.
 Murray, David, 460.
 Music, instrumental band formed, 262.
- M'Allister, William, nicknamed the "Charleston Puddock," 458.
 M'Connell, Hugh, whipped, 152.
 M'Dermid, Rev. John, 348, 413.
 M'Dougal, Rev. William, 352.
 M'Farlane, James, 367.
 M'Gavin, William, on weaving trade, 59.
 M'Gavin, William, on thread trade, 60.
 M'Gregor, Rev. James, D.D., 360, 361.
 M'Indoe, Rev. William, 362.
 M'Intosh, Rev. Alexander, 362.
 M'Intyre, Rev. Alexander, 362.
 M'Intyre, Rev. Allan, 362.
 M'Intyre, Rev. Mr., 357.
 M'Kay, Rev. John, 349.
 M'Kenzie, Rev. Mr., 362.
 M'Kenzie, Rev. P. W., 349.
 M'Kerrell, William, commander of Volunteer corps, 1000 strong, in 1803, 108.
 M'Kerrell, John, a Parliamentary candidate, 271.
 M'Kerrells, the, 69.
 M'Kinlay, Dr., 467.
 M'Kune, Rev. C., 346.
 M'Lauchlan, Rev. Robert, 363.
 M'Lean, Rev. John, 357.
 M'Leod, Rev. A. G., 362.
 M'Loy, Rev. William, 361.
 M'Neil, Rev. A., 362.
 M'Neil, Rev. Lachlan, 349.
 M'Robert, Thomas, 367.
- Neilson Educational Institution, 324 to 328.
 Neilston, coaches to and from, 160.
 Neilston, seditious address at, 196.
 Nelson's victory at Aboukir, demonstration, 75.
 Newspaper, first, in Paisley, 215, 418.
 Newspaper, *Paisley and Renfrewshire Reformer*, 303.
 Newspaper, *Western Independent*, 303.
 Newspapers in Paisley, 418.
 Newtown, building of, commenced, 95.
 Nicolson, Mr., of Carnock made an honorary burgess, 159.
 Nisbet, Rev. William, 348.
 Niven, Rev. F. C., 357.
 Note, Radical, offered in payment of refreshments at Castlecary, 202.
- Oatmeal, price of, in 1800, 99.
 Observatory, gift by Thomas Coats, 393.
- Officers, to Militia, 114, 115.
 Officers to Volunteers, 109, 110, 111, 113, 114.
 Officers, town, 62, 150.
 Organ in Middle Church, 347.
 Ornithological Society, 442.
 Orr Street, 140.
 Orr, Captain John, made an honorary burgess, 158.
 Orr, John, appointed first Provost, 156.
 Orr, John, junior, 152, 414.
- Packmen, 56.
Paisley Advertiser newspaper, 216, 419.
Paisley Advertiser newspaper, the editors of the, 302, 418.
Paisley Herald newspaper, 418, 419.
Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette, 418.
Paisley and Renfrewshire Reformer, 303, 418.
Paisley and Renfrewshire Standard, 418.
Paisley Telegraph newspaper, 418.
 Paisley and Renfrew Railway, 305.
 Paisley, author's closing remarks on his history of, 495.
 Paisley nicknamed a suburb of Glasgow, 411.
 Paisley penny, 460.
 Paisley, Place of, 95.
 Paisley, progress of, 9.
 Paisley, progress of, during nineteenth century, 494, 495.
 Paisley shawls, 403.
 Paisley Trades, Stampmaster's returns, 58.
 Paisley Trades, William M'Gavin on, 58.
 Paisley *via* Inchinnan to Greenock, before Barnsford bridge was built, 91.
 Paris, Paisley firms, places of business in, 57.
 Parishes, Burgh divided into, 31.
 Park, Rev. George, 347.
 Park, Rev. William, 364.
 Parkhill, John, Autobiography, 77 ; becomes a Volunteer, 111 ; visit of military to his house, 198 ; goes to America, 198 ; describes the Radical period, 188 to 190.
 Parliament, petitions to, by the Council, 228.
 Parliamentary representation agitation, 256, 257, 258.
 Passengers to and from Paisley, 304.
 Passengers to and from Paisley by railway, 428.
 Paterson, Rev. John, 362.
 Peace of Amiens, 107.
 Peace rejoicings in 1814, 126 to 129.
 Peel, Sir Robert, letter to the Provost on depression of trade in 1826, 219.

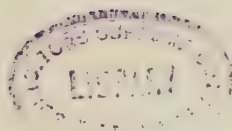
- Pen Brae, 140.
 Periodical literature, 216.
 Perry, William, executed, 255.
 Petitions to Parliament by Town Council, 336.
 Philosophical Institution, 141 to 144, 361, 488.
 Pike, drawing of, and described, 190.
 Pike-making expedition to Pinnel Glen, 197.
 Pillory, 12, 44, 46.
 Pillory or Tollbooth stairhead, criminals exposed on, 45, 46.
 Plantation lands bought by John Mair, 11.
 Pledges to be taken by Parliamentary candidates, 270, 276.
 Poets, Paisley, 494.
 Police, 136, 137.
 Police Act, Council propose to apply for, 92, 135.
 Police Act of 1862 adopted by the Town Council, 435.
 Police Force at different periods, 435.
 Police income and expenditure, 137.
 Police Office, 12.
 Pollock, Rev. Alexander, 357, 362.
 Poor, management of the, 466, 468, 469.
 Poor Law Act, new, 467.
 Poorhouse, 17 to 26, 94.
 Population, 94, 407, 408, 409, 410.
 Port-Glasgow, Volunteers from, 202.
 Porteous, Rev. John, 348.
 Ports, 61, 140.
 Post Office, 14, 405 to 407.
 Potato and Herring Incorporation, 483 to 486.
 Potato riot at Abbey buildings in 1801, 55.
 Potatoes, brought in boats from Kintyre, 55.
 Potatoes, payment of custom resisted, 54.
 Potatoes, when commenced to be cultivated, 54.
 Potts, Thomas, executed, 40, 41, 42.
 Potts's extraordinary letters, 41.
 Pox, small, epidemic, 475.
 Presbytery of Paisley on French Revolution, 69.
 Presidents of the Infirmary, list of, 476.
 Price of provisions, &c., at end of 18th century, 94.
 Prince Regent, address by the Council to, 116.
 Printing, letter-press, commenced, 81.
 Prison, Paisley, closed, 450.
 Procession, great, to Renfrew, at election of M.P., 263, 264, 265.
 Procession to meeting at Renfrew, 268.
 Proclamation and reward offered for the author of letter of 1st April, 204.
 Proclamation against rioting in 1800, 99.
 Proclamation against illegal combinations, 148.
 Proclamations about rioting, 174, 179, 180, 194, 199.
 Prosperity of Paisley in the 18th century, 94, 95.
 Provan, Alexander, executed, 40.
 Provisions high in price in 1800, 98, 99, 100.
 Provost and Bailies present an address to King George IV. at Edinburgh, 157.
 Provost, assumption of the title of, 154.
 Provost, John Orr appointed the first, 156.
 Provost, opinion of counsel taken anent title of, 154.
 Provost to have a robe of office, 427.
 Provident Co-Operative Society, 492.
 Pughe, Rev. Mr., 352.
 Quarry, town's, Mill Street, 36.
 Queen Caroline, 214.
 Queen Charlotte, celebration of birthday, 93.
 Queen Victoria, addresses to, by Town Council, 230, 338.
 Queen Victoria proclaimed Queen, 313.
 Race, foot, between Paisley and Glasgow, 84.
 Race, foot, on Race-course, 248.
 Race, horse, on Moor of Renfrew.
 Racecourse, 83, 209.
 Racing, horse, 82, 83, 209, 210, 235 to 253, 437.
 Racing, horse, letter of A. Kinloch or "Friday" on, 238.
 Radical, definition of word, 266.
 Radical disaffection and military training, 192.
 Radical period described by John Parkhill, 188.
 Radical revolutionary address of 1st April, 1820, 192, 194.
 Radical war, or rising, at an end, 207.
 Radicals, many, made narrow escapes, 205.
 Radicals, military training at Airdrie, 187.
 Radicals throw away their arms, 204.
 Radicals, with arms, parade streets of Glasgow, 203.
 Rail-road of iron first noticed in Council records, 303.
 Railway, Glasgow, Paisley, and Ayr 305, 306.
 Railway, Glasgow, Paisley, and Greenock, 306.
 Railway passengers to and from Paisley, 428.

- Railway stocks, depression in, 224.
 Ragged School, 319 to 324.
 Rankine, Rev. Jonathan, 31, 347.
 Reading-room, 259, 420.
 Reaping hooks and machines, 440.
 Recruiting in Paisley, 69, 75, 76.
 Reform bill rejected by House of Lords, 266.
 Reform bill passed, 270.
 Reform bill, jubilee to celebrate its passing, 271.
 Reform, Burgh, 211.
 Reform of Parliament, 166, 168.
 Reformation of manners, Society for, 413.
 Regent, Prince, address by the Council to, 186.
 Regent, Prince, address by the County to, 187.
 Reid, Rev. John, 345.
 Relief Church, Canal Street, meeting in, Reform resolutions, 166.
 Relief Church, East, Reform meeting in, 168.
 Renfrew and Paisley Railway, 305, 427.
 Renfrew, Rev. John, 363.
Renfrewshire Independent newspaper, 418.
 Renfrewshire Political Union, 259, 265, 266, 268.
 Rennison, Rev. Alexander, 345.
 Rental of property, 420.
 Renwick, Rev. John, 357.
 Reporters first admitted to Council meetings, 301.
 Reservoirs, 344.
 Reviewed, Volunteers, 76.
 Revolution of 1688, illumination at anniversary of, 66.
 Richardson, Rev. Mr., 363.
 Rifle Corps raised, 213.
 Riot at Abbey buildings when potatoes were discovered, 100.
 Rioting in 1800, Proclamation, 99.
 Riots, 423 to 426.
 Riots in Glasgow in 1801, 100.
 Riots, narrative at Council meeting, 183.
 Riots, narrative by James Brown, superintendent of police, 173 to 180.
 Riots, narrative by William Motherwell, 180.
 Riots, Radical, 172.
 Ritter, Joseph, tenant of Abercorn Inn, 95.
 Roads, County, 91.
 Robbery at Crossmyloof, 187.
 Robbery at James Arneil's, High Capilly, 186.
 Robe of office to the Provost, 427.
 Robertson, Rev. George, 363.
 Roman Catholic disabilities, repeal of, 63, 64, 214.
 Roman Catholic riots, and houses burned in Edinburgh and Leith, 63.
 Roman Catholics, none in Paisley in 1779, 63.
 Ross, Horatio, a Parliamentary candidate, 274.
 Ross, Rev. Evan, 349.
 Row, Rev. William, 357.
 Ross, Rev. William, 363.
 Rowing clubs, 375.
 Sabbath, Coffee-room to be partly shut on, 60.
 Sabbath schools established, 81.
 Saint Mirin, how spelled, 445.
 Salaries of the Bailies stopped, 301.
 Salmon, Rev. Alexander, 357.
 Sandford, Sir D. K., elected M.P., 274.
 Sandy, daft, 454.
 Saracen's Head Inn, 60, 61.
 School Board, 333 to 335.
 School Board election, 361.
 School, children at, 409.
 School of Design or Arts, 315 to 319.
 Schools in Paisley in 1812, 150.
 Schools, sessional, founded, 306.
Scots Magazine describes prosperity of Paisley, 95.
 Scott, Rev. Peter, 32.
 Scott, centenary of Sir Walter, 417.
 Seal of the Burgh of Paisley, 461.
 Semple, William, historian, notice of, 90.
 Sergeant's acre, 9.
 Shanks, W., pastor, 363.
 Shaw, Hugh, 456.
 Shawls, Paisley, 403.
 Shepherds, Order of Ancient, 464.
 Sheriff Court buildings, new, 478.
 Sheriff Court business, 478.
 Sheriff Court-house, 12.
 Shipbuilding at river Cart, 339.
 Shoemakers' society, 376.
 Silk gauze trade in 1784, 57.
 Silk web, spun from worms of Andrew Wright's own rearing, 59.
 Simcock, Rev. John M., 364.
 Simpson, Rev. William, 32, 349.
 Slaughter-house, 61, 62, 94.
 Slaughter-house, animals killed, 146, 453.
 Slaughter-house removed from Moss Street, 253.
 Slave trade, petition against, 80.
 Slaves, amelioration of condition of the, petition to Parliament, 298.
 Smart, Rev. William, 348.
 Smart, Rev. William S., 348.
 Sneddon Bridge, erection opposed by Town Council, 38.
 Sneddon Bridge to be erected, 37.

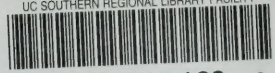
- Sneddon Bridge taken down and rebuilt, 38.
 Sneddon ford, 37.
 Snodgrass, Captain Kenneth, made an honorary burgess, 15.
 Snodgrass, Rev. John, 31.
 Society for reformation of manners, 413, 415.
 Societies and associations, list of, 477.
 Societies, benevolent, 145.
 Societies, friendly, 145, 146.
 Societies, trades', 376.
 Song by John Goldie about the Radicals, 200.
 Spaven, Rev. John, 364.
 Speirs, A. G., elected M.P. (1835), 275.
 Speirs, James, tried in St. George's Church, 205, 206.
 Speirs, Mr., of Elderslie entertained at a public dinner, 270.
 St. George's Church, 345.
 St. Mirin Street, west side rebuilt, 445.
 Stairhead of Tollbooth, 12.
 Stallinger fine fixed, amount of, 158.
 Stampmaster's return as to trade, 58.
 Statute Labour Acts, 91.
 Statute Labour statistics, 216.
 Steam engine, first made in Paisley, 339.
 Steel, R., pastor, 363.
 Steeple at Cross to be rebuilt, 10, 94.
 Steeple, Cross, taken down, 434.
 Steeple, houses at west, sold, 9.
 Steeple, west, 140.
 Stevenson, Rev. Robert, 347, 356.
 Stewart, Rev. James, 352.
 Stewart, Rev. J. A., 357.
 Stewart, Rev. J. D., 359.
 Stewart, Sir M., made an honorary burgess, 159.
 Stewarton, coaches to and from, 160.
 Stirling's Library, Glasgow, 129.
 Stocks, 12.
 Stones, where obtained, to build houses, 53.
 Storms, &c., 398 to 403.
 Strang, Rev. George W., 359.
 Strathaven Radicals, 203.
 Street, cleaning contract for, 34.
 Streets, Act of Parliament obtained to improve, 440.
 Sturrock, Rev. James B., 361.
 Subscriptions in 1800 to relieve distress, 98, 99.
 Subscriptions, voluntary, to Government, 72, 73, 74, 75.
 Sunday desecration, 10.
 Superiority of lands of Carriagehill bought, 9.
 Superiority sold, 164.
 Symington, Rev. Andrew, 350, 351, 414.
 Symington, William, merchant, 350.
 Tabernacle Church, 363.
 Table showing expenditure, assessment, &c., regarding the poor, 469.
 Tailors' Society, 376.
 Tannahill, Robert, centenary of, 427.
 Taylor, J., pastor, 363.
 Taylor's, Peter, farthing, 461.
 Taylor, Rev. William, D.D., of the High Church, 30.
 Taylor, Rev. William, 364.
 Temperance Society, 306.
 Theatres, 367, 368, 369, 370.
 Thomson, Rev. Andrew, 355.
 Thomson, Rev. James, 352.
 Thomson, Rev. John, D.D., 359.
 Thomson, Rev. R. W., 358.
 Thread, manufacture of, 59, 60.
 Thread trade, 404.
 Toll bars, 488.
 Tollbooth and Steeple, expense of erecting, 12.
 Tollbooth broken open by a female prisoner, 14.
 Tollbooth broken open by men, 14, 119.
 Tollbooth called the Prætorium, 12.
 Tollbooth, drawing of, and Cross Steeple, 11.
 Tollbooth, internal divisions, 12.
 Tollbooth jailer appointed, 10, 12, 13.
 Tollbooth, list of dues payable to jailer, 13, 116.
 Tollbooth, number incarcerated, 118.
 Tollbooth, plan of, by Bailie Birkmyre, 10.
 Tollbooth, plan of, and Steeple by John Whyte approved of, 10.
 Tollbooth regulations, 14, 117.
 Tollbooth, stairhead of, 12.
 Tollbooth taken down, 122.
 Tollbooth to be taken down and rebuilt, 10, 94.
 Town Clerks, 430.
 Town Clerks' office, 12.
 Town Council funds, statement in 1753 of, 46.
 Town guard, 35.
 Town Hall, gift of, to the town by George A. Clark, 391, 392.
 Town Hall, subscribers' names for a, 386 to 391.
 Town's House erected, 60.
 Trade depression, 78, 146, 165, 212, 218, 220, 221, 223.
 Trade of Paisley in 1789, table showing, 97.
 Trade prosperity, 218.
 Trades' Library, 130.

- Treasurer's accounts, how kept, 46.
 Troops in Paisley recruiting, 69.
 Turnpike Act, 91.
 Unemployed, fund raised for, 168, 169, 184.
 Vagrant beggars to be kept out of town, 18, 20, 24, 91.
 Vallance, Hugh, designer of Tollbooth and Cross Steeple, 11.
 Vegetables sold at the Cross by kail-wives, 55.
 Visitors of markets and lymers appointed, 33.
 Visitors, or Sunday privy censors, appointed, 10.
 Voluntary Church Association, Paisley, 303.
 Volunteers, 69, 70, 71, 74, 76, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 114, 443.
 Volunteers give up their flags to the Council at the peace of Amiens, 107.
 Voters, 410.
 Wade, Rev. W. M., 351.
 Wales, Prince of, marriage of, 433.
 Wallace, Rev. David, 363.
 Wallace, Robert, of Kelly, 406.
 War on the Continent, 77, 107.
 Watching of churchyards, 233, 234, 235.
 Water brought into Paisley, 291 to 295.
 Waterloo Club, 216.
 Waterworks acquired by Town Council, 340 to 345.
 Watson, Richard, death of, 418.
 Watson, Rev. David, 347.
 Watt, Dr., Crossmyloof, robbery, 187.
 Watt, Dr. Robert, 470, 471.
 Weather, storms, &c., 398.
 Weavers', Old, Society, 376, 377, 378.
 Weavers' Society, 139.
 Weaving trade, 56, 403.
 Weighs, Hay, 80.
 Weir, Daunie, 454.
 Wellington, Duke of, asked to form a new Ministry on resignation of Earl Grey, 267.
 Wells, 92, 297.
Western Independent newspaper, 303.
Western Standard newspaper, 418.
 Wheel carriages, when first used, 91.
 Whipping criminals, 42, 43, 44, 151, 152, 153.
 Whisky, illicit distilling of, 165.
 White, Dr., 466.
 Whitworth, Robert, reports how to improve the Cart, 49.
 Whyte, John, drew plan of High Church, 30.
 Whyte, John, his plan of Tollbooth approved, 10.
 Wilson, Rev. A. M., 364.
 Wilson, Rev. Alexander, 364.
 Wilson, Rev. John, 356.
 Windmill for working pumping apparatus at Blackhall, 53.
 Wood, Rev. James E., 347.
 Woodneuk, 9.
 Wotherspoon, Rev. John, 32, 68.
 Wright, Duncan, 412.
 Wright, Duncan, endowment, 335.
 Wrights' Society, 376.
 Wyper, Rev. Mr., 357.
 Yeomanry cavalry, 71, 185, 201, 214, 225.
 Yeomanry cavalry, Ayrshire, 201, 204.
 Yett house, Abbey, 95.
 Young, Rev. J., 357.
 Young, Rev. G. P., 362.
 Young, Rev. Mr., 363.

NOV 26 1985



UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY



A 000 599 128 6

